

STOURBRIDGE CHRONICLE



Thursday, March 14, 2013

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On the road

Car that 16-year-olds can drive legally

Page 3



Crime fighters

Team that's breaking the cycle of re-offending

Page 6



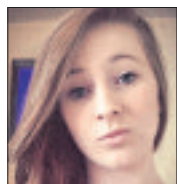
Demolition men

Outstanding display from Saxons trounces Leicester

Page 39



Christina's family tell of their heartbreak



Christina Edkins

THE family of schoolgirl Christina Edkins who was stabbed to death on a bus have told of their heartbreak.

The 16-year-old of Ladywood, was travelling to Leasowes High School, Halesowen, on a double decker when she was killed by a single stab wound to the chest last Thursday.

Her parents Kathleen and Jason, brother Ryan and half-sister Joanne said words could not begin to describe their pain.

"Our lives will never be the same again," they said in a statement. "Our daughter was the most beautiful, intelligent and bright young lady."

A book of condolence has been opened at St Peter's Church in Lapal, Halesowen.

On Tuesday, police were granted authorisation to charge 22-year-old Phillip Simelane of Walsall with Christina's murder.

Clampdown on speeding

A CLAMPDOWN on drivers flouting the speed limit on a main route between Stourbridge and Kidderminster has been launched.

Fears have been raised by residents about the speed of traffic on the A451.

Data on speeds collected by the Safer Roads Partnership showed at least seven out of 10 drivers were exceeding the 30mph limit and 15 per cent were travelling about 40.8mph.

Now a mobile speed enforcement site is being set up on the road to try to get motorists to slow down.

FREE CAR PARK TRIAL LAUNCHED AT MARKET

A MARKET boss in Brierley Hill is hoping to kick-start the town's economy with a free parking trial.

Shane Birch-Bastock, owner of Concord Market, has suspended the parking fee for customers which has been in place at the market car park for 10 years.

He says the trial will allow shoppers to park in the 70-space car park behind the indoor market, which is off High Street. The car park was previously pay and display.

He said: "Our car park is only a small one but if we don't do something then who will?" "Putting up car parking charges is not the answer. We need to try to make the town busier and bring more shoppers in."

Revenue

Mr Birch-Bastock said he started charging for parking in about 2004 and charged people £1, but market customers could get the money refunded when they bought goods.

He said: "We know there might be some revenue lost from this move but we're hoping this will be off-set by the increase in business."

"It is for any shoppers to park there but if it gets abused we'll just stop it. We're thinking of people just coming for an hour or two while they do their shopping and then going again. If it's ram-packed every day after two weeks, then we can't continue."

"But if every other car park in the town decided to do the same, how brilliant that would be. It would also take the pressure off mine."

Only weeks ago it was revealed that Brierley Hill had one of the worst-performing retail scenes of any small town in the country.

A study showed that 29.6 per cent of the town's shops were empty and the revelation prompted calls from

by Sharon Marris

residents for free parking and lower shop rents to help retailers struggling in the economic climate.

Mr Birch-Bastock, who is also chairman of the Brierley Hill Traders' Association, said his car park, which is between Venture Way and Mill Street, was the last in the town to start charging for parking and it was a decision he made reluctantly.

He said: "We felt we had to do it then because the free parking was being abused by traders and employees."

The car park was full by 9am every morning.

"So we've made this trial of free parking for customers only and we haven't decided how long to run it for yet. It's to see how it goes."

"We're trying to find solutions to the parking problems and increasing car parking charges is not the answer."

Traffic

In February, Dudley Council rolled out a new parking scheme for the town centre.

It was a bid to cut traffic and to provide quick parking for shoppers.

Under the £100,000 test, four bays for hour-long unloading and parking were introduced in High Street.

They are opposite the library. On the library side of the road, double yellow lines stop parking from 7am to 7pm, Monday to Saturday.

Cricket club bowled over with revamp



The mayor and mayoress join young players and club officials in the dressing room of the revamped clubhouse

PLAYERS and bosses at Stourbridge Cricket Club are delighted with the new facilities that have been created as part of a £42,000 revamp.

The new changing rooms and shower facilities were officially opened by Dudley Mayor Councillor Melvyn Mottram at the weekend.

The opening brings to a close an ambitious five-year development plan at the club.

Other parts of the scheme have seen the building of a community practice facility and restoration of the clubhouse roof to its original 1920s look.

The club has also expanded its junior section as part of the plan and installed

renewable energy technologies.

Mark Ashbourne, the club's grants and sponsorship officer, said the club had turned round its fortunes with the new developments.

"After all the work we have done, this really is the icing on the cake," he said.

Structural

"If our players don't do well when they've got changing rooms like they have now, they never will."

"A few years ago we were close to being closed down because the club was in such bad shape. Now it just looks completely different. You would-

n't recognise it. We are really pleased."

The club secured more than £42,000 from a number of organisations to undertake the project which included a lot of structural changes.

Sport England's Places People Play Inspired Facilities Fund, Cory Environmental Trust in Britain, Stourbridge Area Committee and The Anthony and Gwendoline Wyld Memorial Charity all contributed to the cost.

Councillor Mottram praised the work which had been done.

"The work is fantastic - first class," he said. "It's something that was really needed."

Work on Tesco to close main town road

A MAIN route through Stourbridge will be closed for about six weeks as work on a £30 million Tesco development enters the next stage.

Crown Lane will close to traffic but a diversion will take drivers over Crown Square for the first time in more than 10 years.

The closure will last for up to three weeks in April and July.

Workers will be finishing off the steel frame and roof for the new Tesco from April 8 and then laying down a new road from July 8.

While the road is closed, the diversion will take motorists from Lower High Street, across Crown Square and down Market Street and Bell Street where they can then exit on to the ring road.

Crown Lane will also be closed to pedestrians during the April closure. It will, however, be open during the July closure, which will run until July 26.

Councillor Judy Foster, cabinet member for transportation, said: "We thank everyone for their patience and apologise for any inconvenience."

Margaret Scott, chairman of Stourbridge Township Council, said: "It will be interesting to see if any benefits are brought to the traders following the opening of the square to traffic. We will keep a close eye on it."

237 horses rounded up

MORE than 230 stray horses have been taken off the streets of Dudley borough in less than a year.

Council bosses say that a campaign to control stray horses on the streets has been a resounding success.

A spokesman said illegal grazing on council land had been endemic in the Black Country.

Between April 2011 and this January, of the 237 horses removed, 171 were re-homed, 59 were waiting to be re-homed and seven were returned to owners.



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NEWS

CONTENTS

Peter Rhodes	4
Letters	7
Clubs	18
What's On	25
TV	26-28
Puzzles	29
Property	30
Sport	39

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New play attractions at Merry Hill

TWO attractions are to be launched for youngsters at the Merry Hill shopping centre at Easter.

The third phase of the shopping centre's Quest entertainment development will feature a combat zone for foam darts game Nerf sponge blasters and the UK's first Yu-Kids soft play area.

The Quest operational manager at Merry Hill Mark Knox said they

expected the two new attractions to be open for Good Friday, March 29.

He said he would be taking on about a dozen new staff and once the new attractions were open he would be looking at doing more promotional activity.

He said a key aim was to increase the number of toddlers using facilities during the day.

Quest is owned by Paragon Enter-

tainment and is its first owned and operated visitor attraction.

The attractions division opened its operation at Merry Hill in November offering the largest indoor ropes course in the UK, a temporary outdoor ice rink, a Nerf blaster target range and shop and cafe.

The second phase opened on February 16 and added Quest for

Adventure, an under-sevens soft play and ropes course area a nine-hole minigolf course.

More than 15,000 people visited Quest in its first month after it was officially opened to shoppers at the centre's Christmas lights turn on in November.

So far, 30 jobs have been created at the site, which will have cost £1.2m once completed.

Firm defends jobs axe despite rising profits

A MAJOR energy supplier has defended its decision to close offices in Kingswinford, putting jobs at risk, following the announcement its profits increased 25 per cent last year.

Npower is to close its IT contact centre in Kingswinford later this year as part of a review carried out by parent company RWE.

The decision to close the High Street base will hit the 284 employees there - many are thought to be relocated to other company centres in Oldbury and Worcester.

However, company bosses told Dudley South MP Chris Kelly last month that there would be some redundancies, but it was still too early to say how many jobs would be lost.

Last week, the company announced profits had risen from £313million in 2011 to £390m in 2012, despite the loss of 70,000 customers last year.

Company spokesman Alex Madden said the consultation with staff over the office closure was continuing.

In response to the news over profits, Mr Madden said: "This net profit follows a £2.5 billion investment in the UK's infrastructure.

Members

"It represents a less than five per cent margin, significantly lower than other FTSE businesses."

Andrew Johnson, regional official for Unison, said he was continuing to talk to company bosses in the interests of its members.

He said: "The talks are still ongoing and we are trying to get those employees who want to continue at the company transferred to either Worcester and Oldbury."

Following the company's decision to close the office, both Chris Kelly and Dudley North MP Ian Austin said they would provide support and advice to those people affected.

Today, Mr Kelly said: "This seems to be simply an exercise in cost cutting and although I welcome companies in my constituency performing well it leaves a sour taste when done at the expense of local Dudley South residents."

Sound of Music fills school



Poppy Aston is Maria Von Trapp and Tom Heath plays Captain Von Trapp with back, left to right, Olivia Marshall Abigail Joyce, Aaron Gwynn-Thomas, Zofia Newton, Olivia Thomas, Megan Luckins and Harry Fletcher as the rest of the Von Trapp family

A STOURBRIDGE school is alive with The Sound of Music as pupils perform the hit musical.

Students at Redhill School have been staging their version of the show this week.

Redhill's acting head of music, Sam Chater, said the pupils had been rehearsing for months to prepare for the show which was made famous thanks to the 1965 film starring Julie Andrews.

She said: "They have put so much effort in, and I know they are really looking forward to it. It is a difficult vocal piece so they have had to work hard to

master it. The Sound of Music is so well known and obviously has its jokes but it is also focusing on a serious time in history so there is a lot to it."

Performances were on Monday and Tuesday and there is another tonight (Thursday).

The pupils, aged between 11 and 16, are also staging a show for local primary school children.

The school stages annual productions, with Guys and Dolls and the Little Shop of Horrors among those performed in recent years.

Pensioner choked to death as he ate toast

A PENSIONER who choked to death on toast served by a care worker should not have been given solid food, his family told an inquest.

Black Country coroner Robin Balmain is to write to the agency employing the assistant, drawing its attention to the importance of care plans.

Derek Thomas's daughter, Dianne Palmer, said: "There should have been a care plan - it is poor quality of care that caused the death of him."

Mr Thomas, 73, a retired boiler tester, of Compton Grange, Cradley Heath, died after inhaling a "foreign body". He had underlying health problems.

Judith Andrews, who worked for Charter Care, told the inquest she made Mr Thomas toast and coffee. "He started to eat the toast and began to cough as it went down the wrong way," she said.

She said she was not aware that he was prone to choking and there was no care plan telling her he should not have solid food.

Janice Poole, senior carer for Charter Care, said social services would have told them if he should not have solid food. Mr Balmain recorded a verdict that death was due to accidental choking but that instructions as to his diet were not communicated to his carer.

Market to boost new businesses

FIVE rent-free market stalls will be made available on Dudley market so budding business owners can make bring something new to the market place.

Dudley Council has teamed up with the National Market Traders Federation to encourage aspiring entrepreneurs in the borough, which includes Stourbridge, to start a business on the market.

Under the scheme, new business owners can trade for up to 12 months at a discounted rate.

Applications must be submitted by tomorrow (Friday) with potential for up to five free days of trading during national "love your local market" fortnight - May 15-29.

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Pair admit £3k fraud on bogus packages

A COUPLE tried to pocket £3,000 in compensation claims from Royal Mail for special deliveries they claimed had never arrived, a court heard.

Parvinder and Baljit Nijjar claimed packages containing £500 cash and a £2,450 diamond ring had not reached their destinations after they had sent them.

But it emerged that the couple had never sent the packages and were making the fraudulent claims to clear debts.

The pair had access to documentation needed to lodge a compensation claim because they worked at the post office in Stourbridge High Street, Wolverhampton Magistrates Court heard.

But their con was discovered when it emerged that one of the packages was to be delivered just 400 yards from their Willenhall home.

The couple, both aged 36, of Marshall Road, indicated a guilty plea to two counts of fraud by false representation.

Richard Quinn, defending, said his clients had three young children and had no previous convictions. He added: "They acted out of desperation."

Magistrates said they were considering a community penalty. The pair will be sentenced on March 25.

Rising cost of meals is defended

A DUDLEY education chief has defended a decision to raise the price of school meals – saying parents in the borough still pay the lowest for them than anywhere else in the region.

Dudley Council recently agreed to a 5p rise in the price of meals to £1.90 a day, or £9.50 a week. The 3.3 per cent inflation rise will cover the rising cost of food and fuel and will bring in an extra £125,000.

Councillor Tim Crumpton, said: "Serving good quality school meals at affordable prices is absolutely essential for our children."

"This price rise of 5p a day is as low as we can afford. This takes the price of a meal to £1.90, still as low as anywhere in the region."

Scheme to protect churches from yobs

A NEW watch group aimed at tackling theft and vandalism at churches has been launched by police and trialled in Brierley Hill.

The scheme sees police and church leaders share crime prevention advice to help make buildings less vulnerable.

They also work with the community to encourage residents and passers-by to remain vigilant.

The scheme has been welcomed by church leaders. Many churches across the Dudley borough have been targeted by raiders and yobs who have left congregations with costly

repair bills. Among those who have signed up to the Church Watch scheme is St John the Evangelist Church in Brockmoor, Brierley Hill.

The church, off High Street, was attacked by vandals who destroyed headstones and crosses in the 19th century churchyard.

More than £14,000 damage was caused during the late-night attack in September.

St John's vicar, the Rev Steve Martin, said the church had been forced to close the burial ground to protect remaining graves. "It was mindless vandalism. St John's is a community church so an attack on the

churchyard is an attack on the community," he said.

"Church Watch is a very good idea – it's similar to a Neighbourhood Watch scheme. "We are also setting up a youth project which the police are helping us with and this will mean the building is used more, which should help to reduce problems," he added.

Pcso Neil Bunting, who set up Church Watch, said police would be monitoring the scheme to see if it "has a positive effect on reducing metal thefts, vandalism and general criminal damage in and around the church grounds."

He also encouraged more churches to sign up to the project.

"We aim to send regular updates on latest initiatives and crime prevention advice on personal safety, business security and home and vehicle security."

"I will also be producing a quarterly Church Watch newsletter," added Pcso Bunting.

Church leaders and members will also be invited to community meetings to discuss any issues they have with officers.

For more information email the team at brierleyhill@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Car that puts drivers on the road at the age of 16

SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLDS who are desperate to get behind the wheel of a car, now don't need to wait for that extra year.

Thanks to a firm which has a base in Brierley Hill, youngsters can get on the move 12 months early.

The Aixam Coupe S which is designed for 16-year-olds has gone on sale at Merry Hill shopping centre at £10,359. And is likely to cost 16-year-olds about £1,700 in insurance.

The Steve Smith Motor Company is one of only 10 dealers in the country selling the vehicles. Steve Smith, aged 48, said the car was limited to a speed of just under 30mph, had a 400cc engine and could be driven by 16-year-olds as soon as they had a full moped licence.

He said: "It's a good and safe way for 16-year-olds to get on the road. My son, who is 16 and has a scooter, won't shut up about them. "He loved the styling and enjoyed driving it."

The two-seater car looks like a small version of a Mini but is classed as a light quadricycle, which gives an extra option to 16-year-olds who were have been restricted to 50cc mopeds.

Confidence

To qualify as a quadricycle, the French-made vehicle, which has two white stripes on the bonnet, had to weigh less than 350kg, have a power output not exceeding 4kw, and a maximum speed of 30mph. The Aixam has one forward gear, neutral and reverse.

Mr Smith's son Ethan said: "It's a bit like driving a go-kart and, at 16, I'd rather have one of these than a moped."

Manager of the motor company's Merry Hill branch Darren Winwood said: "We've already had a lot of interest from parents and even grandparents."

"I think one of the most attractive things is the insurance."

"Some 17 and 18-year-olds are paying between £3,000 and £6,000 in car insurance a year. What we can get with this one at the moment is about £1,700."

At Merry Hill, teenagers can test drive the car as long as they are accompanied by a parent.

Before they buy the car, which Mr Smith is selling for £10,359, they need to do their theory and practical full AM moped test.

The car was launched in November in Birmingham and there are already thousands on European roads.



Driver Ethan Smith with Steve Smith, from Steve Smith Motor Company, and the Aixam Coupe S, which can be driven by 16-year-olds



Ethan, aged 16, takes a look inside the Aixam Coupe S, which has a price tag of £10,000

AXIAM COUPE FACTFILE

Price - £10,359
Annual insurance for average 16-year-old - from £1,700
Seats - Two
Features - CD player
Available colours - cobalt blue, black, red, titanium grey
Engine size - 400cc
Engine type - diesel
Fuel consumption - 95mpg
Fuel tank capacity - 16 litres

NEWS in brief

More specials for local routes

SEVEN more volunteer police officers are patrolling public transport in the West Midlands.

They are working as part of the Safer Travel Police Team, which patrols buses, trains and Metro trams.

The number of special constables on the team has gone up from three to 10 and the number of police officers overall is now 26, coupled with 24 community support officers.

The new specials were officially sworn in by magistrate Jill Parker, of Wolverhampton.

Patients tune up for opera show

PEOPLE with dementia are tuning up for their moment in the spotlight as they work with the English Touring Opera to put on a musical show at Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

They are writing their own songs as part of a unique project also involving WAVE – the museums, galleries and archives of Wolverhampton.

The final piece is due to be premiered at the Grand Theatre on Wednesday April 17. To find out more call 01902 552033.

Workshops will focus on links

WORKSHOPS raising awareness of anti-social behaviour and its links with mental health issues will take place in Dudley this spring.

There are workshops running at Wren's Nest Community Centre, Summer Road, Dudley, on March 21, 27 and April 4.

For more details contact 01384 816916.

Expectation over Dickens show

THE great-great-grandson of Charles Dickens will bring alive his famous ancestor's Great Expectations in a one-man show in Dudley. Gerald Dickens will give his performance at Netherton Arts Centre, Dudley, on April 26 starting at 1.30pm and 7.30pm.

Tickets are available from Dudley Performing Arts on 01384 813943.

Lost mansions

IAN Bott will give an illustrated talk to Stourbridge History Society on the lost mansions of the Black Country at the Ambleside Room, Stourbridge Town Hall on March 21 at 7.30pm.

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NEWS

THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



THE summer of 2013? It was a week last Tuesday. □□□□□□□□

NO SURPRISES in the Europe-wide report on the dangers of eating processed meat. As a general rule of nature, the better something tastes, the worse it is for you. And can you think of anything in the natural world that tastes quite as good as a bacon sarnie with brown sauce? It is the food of the gods. The only snag is that the more you eat, the sooner you will be with the gods.

□□□□□□□□

SCIENTISTS in East Anglia say half of Britain's 1.5 million deer should be culled to prevent "devastation" of the countryside. Any driver whose car has been written off by a jaywalking muntjac will agree with that. But there is no need for wholesale slaughter. Britain has too many deer because we have exterminated all their natural predators. If the shy, beautiful Eurasian lynx were reintroduced to remote areas of our land, the deer problem would be sorted before you could say Bambi.

□□□□□□□□

STREET artists. Do they draw the crowds? □□□□□□□□

IN LIFE, as in all the best jokes, the secret of success is timing. Last week came news of a great British breakthrough in driverless-vehicle technology. This week, scientists in Massachusetts have revealed a revolutionary coating which stops car windcreens steaming up. The way things are going, the Yanks will be making the first unsteerable windcreens at about the same time as the Brits are building the first cars without windcreens. Aw, shucks.

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WE went along to Wild Night Out, naturalist Chris Packham's one-man show which is currently touring Middle England. The affable Springwatch presenter and wildlife photographer is a great raconteur and he presents some breathtaking snaps of everything from pond-skaters to tigers. But what of his central ecological argument, that we can only have a thriving, animal-rich countryside if we Brits are prepared to pay more for food, thus encouraging less intensive farming? Try telling a struggling housing-estate mum that there could be barn owls and goshawks on every English farm - if only she would pay an extra £20 a week for food. We are a divided nation. A green, middle-class argument that brings applause in Lichfield or Leamington Spa goes down like a lead balloon in Bilston.

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THERE are two mysteries in ITV's new crime drama, Broadchurch. The first is who committed the murder. The second is why no senior officer has got a grip on the scruffy, stubbly, newly promoted DI Hardy (David Tennant) and told him to smarten himself up.

□□□□□□□□

JUST supposing Britain and the United States were stupid enough to supply weapons to the rag-tag insurgents in Syria, as the Syrian resistance is demanding. . How long before those weapons would find their way into Afghanistan and be used against British and US troops? The road to Damascus, like the road to hell, is paved with good intentions.

Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star

Mike soldiers on despite snake bite

WHEN mayoral attendant Mike Crannage stopped to cool down at a waterfall during a mammoth trek through the Costa Rican jungle he had no notion of the danger.

As he set off back into the undergrowth, he was bitten by a venomous snake leaving him needing emergency treatment.

The 53-year-old, of Nether-

ton, started to feel ill but still managed the three-hour trek to the next meeting point.

"I'm not sure how long it took but by the time I reached the meeting point I was feeling a bit rough and in the end I could only manage eight or nine paces before I had to stop and rest. I must have looked a right a mess. As soon as I got there I

was asked what's wrong and all I could say was 'snake'," said Mr Crannage, who works for Dudley Council.

He was then taken in a 4x4 on a bumpy, two-hour journey to a jungle clinic.

"My blood pressure was through the roof, I had a heart rate of 180 and was suffering arterial fibrillation.

"I was put on oxygen and attached to heart and blood pressure monitors," he said.

At the clinic, he was treated successfully and released. Despite the setback, Mr Crannage, who has worked for the council for 10 years, completed the rest of the 150-mile trek, which included a 1,000-metre climb to the top of a volcano.



Mike Crannage

£500,000 scheme to spruce up homes

A £500,000 scheme to spruce up homes in a Dudley street is getting under way as part of a project that will also see empty properties brought back into use.

Council officials have linked with Jephson Homes Housing Association for the project to revamp homes in Stourbridge Road, Holly Hall.

New windows and roof repairs are among the works planned for properties along the busy route between Dudley and Brierley Hill.

Bosses said the focus of the project is the availability of quality affordable housing in Dudley for people in need of places to live.

In total, 17 large houses, which had been converted into 47 bedsits and small flats in the early 1980s, are being redesigned.

These will be modernised to meet needs of people in the area and turned into homes ranging from single bedroom flats to five-bedroom houses.

It is hoped the work, which will be completed in a series of phases, will match future demand in the borough in coming years.

Men stay at work for longer

THE rising state pension age for women is prompting their husbands to work for longer.

The Institute for Fiscal Studies looked at the impact that increasing women's pension age has had over the last couple of years - and found that 8,300 more men were in work than there would otherwise have been.

The IFS suggested that men's changed behaviour could be due to husbands reworking their plans so that they could retire at the same time as their wife, or that men are having to delay their own retirement in order to make up their partner's lost pension income with additional earnings.

Researchers found there were 35,000 more men and women were still working as a direct result of the increase to the state pension age.

College golf academy gets date for tee-off

STOURBRIDGE College's new golf academy will tee off in September - a venture set up with Hagley Golf and Country Club.

It will offer students the chance to gain a sports qualification alongside professional golf coaching.

Recruitment has already started with a group of prospective students meeting college lecturers and golf club staff at the Hagley Driving Range to find out more about the course.

As well as studying for a recognised qualification, students will benefit from technical golf coaching, golf specific fitness sessions and plenty of opportunities to test out their skills on the golf course.

Golf coaching and membership at Hagley Golf and Country Club will be included with the course.

David Faulkner, golf co-ordinator at Stourbridge College, said: "We know that the development of the course will not only have a positive impact on students but it will also go some way to developing the game as a whole as well as helping to promote a healthy lifestyle."

Barriers

"After leaving school, young people are at a high risk of dropping out of sport and it's hoped that courses like this will encourage more golfers to continue with the sport. Some students might not have played golf regularly but we hope that the programme can help to break down traditional barriers to entering the sport."

Paul Johnson, head professional at the Hagley club, said: "We're really pleased that our local college has developed a course specifically designed for young golfers in the region - and hopefully it might encourage others to take up the sport. "We're keen to develop the next generation of golfers and students will benefit from making use of our excellent facilities." People can visit www.stourbridge.ac.uk, telephone Mr Faulkner on 01384 399641 or send an email to david.faulkner@stourbridge.ac.uk

Mayor of Dudley Councillor Melvyn Mottram who has supported the children, said: "It's been fun to get stuck in and do some activities to help promote the campaign."



Student Kathryn Brookes looks forward to the start of the new golf academy

Gym clubs agree to have clearer terms

THREE gym firms, including one run by Dragons' Den star Duncan Bannatyne, will make their terms more transparent following an investigation into another firm by the Office of Fair Trading.

Bannatyne Fitness, David Lloyd Leisure and Fitness First will also give better cancellation rights to members. They have nearly a million between them.

Drivers face 19,000 sets of roadworks

MOTORISTS are having to contend with around 19,000 sets of roadworks stretching for 1,434 miles - almost twice the distance by road between Land's End and John O'Groats.

In the last five years there have been more than two million roadworks projects started on UK roads.

The figures came from data from more than 80 British local authorities.

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Closures are main concern on police

POLICE station closures, including Hagley, were the main topic as Worcester-shire's police chief was grilled in a live webchat.

David Shaw, Chief Constable of West Mercia, said changes would not happen "overnight" and they would get through "difficult" times battling budget cuts.

He also tried to allay fears at a public meeting in Worcester. Hagley police station, together with Bewdley and Stourport, faces the axe under force plans.

Police chiefs outlined the proposals as part of a raft of cost-cutting measures as it wrestles with £20 million in spending cuts.

When quizzed by resident John Howard Smith on the force's response to budget cuts, Mr Shaw said: "The good news here is that it does mean we are probably better equipped to absorb a reduction than we might have been."

Residents were able to post questions during the hour and a half long webchat through the West Mercia Police website.

There will be no changes to Kidderminster's main police station in Habberley Road but a community base in Comberton will shut. The changes, subject to consultation, are expected to take up to five years to put in place.

Mysterious artist left signatures

A MYSTERIOUS Black Country graffiti artist stunned staff at The Public, West Bromwich, by leaving his mark at an exhibition dedicated to him.

Staff found three beer mats and a whisky bottle signed by AJW.

An exhibition dedicated to AJW has been at the arts centre since last month.

"We found three beer mats and an AJW branded whisky bottle on top of one of our exhibition display cabinets featuring other AJW memorabilia," said spokesman David Wright.

AJW has been drawing the same image of the late American tenor Mario Lanza wherever he goes, to the delight and bafflement of pub landlords and customers throughout the region.

£250,000 expansion will bring 15 new jobs



Mike Wheeler and Andrew Wynne of FBC Manby Bowdler

A FIRM specialising in 4x4 and pick-up vehicle accessories, has invested £250,000 in manufacturing space to create 15 jobs.

Auto Styling Truckman has taken two units at Hurst Business Park, Pedmore Road, near its current 12,000 sq ft Brierley Hill base.

Units, on a 10-year lease will provide 15,000 sq ft of manufacturing space to make Truckman branded pick-up hardtops.

The firm was established by man-

aging director Mike Wheeler in 2002 now has an annual turnover of £6 million and employs 31.

Mr Wheeler said that Auto Styling Truckman would take on 15 staff over 18 months as it grew.

It sells mainly to major pick-up truck manufacturers and car dealerships in the UK and Europe, as well as to the general public through its website and showroom.

Accessories for more than 700 4x4 and pick-up vehicle variations are offered. The new space will

enable the firm to continue at its present 15 to 20 per cent annual growth rate by extending its manufacturing and bringing some processes in-house.

"Manufacturing in the UK means that we can control quality and price, and respond to customer requests quickly and flexibly, all of which enhances our service."

"This is a major investment, which will allow us to expand our European sales," said Mr Wheeler. Law firm FBC Manby Bowdler

advised on expansion plans and helped Auto Styling Truckman with establishing the business, acquisition of the Truckman brand and property leases.

Andrew Wynne, a partner in the Wolverhampton commercial property department, said: "Auto Styling Truckman is another shining example of a growing, entrepreneurial Black Country company which succeeds by manufacturing locally to provide excellent service to its customers."

Tributes as popular shop owner Den-the-fish dies

MP congratulates college on progress



Margot James, right, school adviser Julie Jasper, Deane Baker, head boy Josh Bath and headgirl Abigail Bills

A SCHOOL which has emerged from Ofsted-imposed special measures has been congratulated by Stourbridge MP Margot James.

The status of Thorns Community College, Stockwell Avenue, Brierley Hill, was changed by inspectors last month after they produced a glowing report on the school's improvement.

The school had been put in special measures following a critical inspection two years ago.

Ms James visited the college to speak to teachers and students about the recent improvement.

She said: "A concerted effort has been made by everyone at Thorns to raise standards at the college, and this news is a reflection of that work."

"So I'd like to pass on my congratulations to all the teachers, staff and pupils. I look forward to seeing Thorns continue its progress."

Principal Deane Baker said: "We

were very pleased that Margot took time out of her very busy schedule to see for herself the huge progress Thorns has made in the last year."

The Ofsted report highlighted vast improvements in the behaviour of children at the 1,250-pupil school, putting it down to strong leadership.

Teaching was also found to have improved significantly, and students' achievement was getting better quickly.

RETIRED greengrocer and fishmonger Dennis Lane whose Stourbridge shop was so popular he was known as Den-the-fish, has died at the age of 80.

Mr Lane ran Brewers Norton Stores for about 40 years, taking it over from his wife Pauline's parents.

The Brewers family business, on the corner of Norton Road and Whittingham Road, had been trading for at least 150 years when it eventually closed in 1999.

But Mr Lane moved his fresh fish and seafood business to Kidderminster, supplying the restaurant trade, getting up at 4.30am to buy his from Birmingham Wholesale Market.

Mr Lane and his wife still lived next to the old Brewers shop, now a hairdressers and beauty salon, and the couple celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary on February 9.

Mr Lane, a former committee member of Stourbridge Golf Club and a keen follower of jazz music, was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2007 and died at the town's Mary Stevens Hospice on February 23.

Grandfather

The funeral was held on Monday at Stourbridge Crematorium.

The Brewers shop was set up during the 19th century by Mrs Lane's grandfather Albert Brewer - at a time when the store and a farm were the only buildings in Norton Road.

Mrs Lane's parents, Albert and Elsie, later ran Brewers as a general grocery and post office, which they kept going through the war years.

"My parents wanted to sell the business to go on a cruise so my husband said he would take it over and I agreed - provided he didn't want me to work in it," said



Dennis Lane

Mrs Lane, aged 79. "But I ended up working there for 40 years."

She met Mr Lane, who was brought up in Lye, when they both worked at the MEB in Stourbridge, he as a clerk and she as a typist. At first they lived with his parents in Orchard Lane, Lye, and they took over the shop when they were expecting their first child, Stephen, now 53. They went on to have another son, Richard, aged 51.

Mrs Lane said: "We had a tremendous time at the shop in the 1960s and 70s - there used to be queues down the road when Den sold kidney beans for a penny or cauliflowers at a good price."

"Den went into the fish business through a close friend - but it ran in the family because his grand-

parents were fishmongers in Cradley Heath.

"His fish used to end up all over the place, including on Russian cruise ships."

NEWS in brief

Microchipping of dogs is supported

STOURBRIDGE MP Margot James has backed plans for the compulsory microchipping of dogs.

At Blacks Vets, Pedmore Road, Lye, she spoke to staff about a new law which means that from 2016, all owners will have to fit dog with a free microchip.

It is to make it easier to deal with more than 100,000 dogs abandoned or lost every year, costing taxpayers and welfare charities £57 million.

Charity leaders' Parliament event

REPRESENTATIVES from a Stourbridge charity have attended a reception at the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness of rare diseases.

Claire Hennessey and Julie Wootton, of Max Appeal, were invited by town MP Margot James to discuss their work at an event hosted by Rare Disease UK which brings together patients, families and health professionals.

Miss James, who is a patron of the rare disease charity FOP Action, has raised the issue of funding for research into rare conditions in Parliament.

Sporting buzz is still being felt

AN Olympic buzz is still being felt with English and Welsh councils reporting an increase in people using sports facilities.

The Local Government Association has found increased attendance at gym and fitness classes, and people getting involved with Olympic and Paralympic sports. Athletics and cycling were among sports with the biggest leap in popularity.

Lost mansions talk for society

STOURBRIDGE History Society will delve into "lost mansions of the Black Country" when Ian Bott gives an illustrated talk at the Ambleside Room, Stourbridge Town Hall, on Thursday, March 21 at 7.30pm.

Visitors are welcome and information is available on 01354 274014.

Hi-tech tree help

SCIENTISTS working to protect the UK's ash trees from a deadly fungus are building a computer programme capable of predicting the spread of the disease, ash dieback.

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NEWS FEATURE

IN MY VIEW

WITH
MARK
ANDREWS

HAVING spotted Aylr burying his much-loved budgie in the garden, Aynuk inquired about the cause of the death.

"Baerd flu?" replied Aylr.
"Baerd flu? How did he get that?," asked Aynuk, surprised.
"I dunno, I just opened the doozer an' he flu under the buzz."

TRUTH be told, I think my copy must have got lost in the post. But I am reliably informed by avid readers of the clinicians' journal BMC Medical that three pork sausages a day is a passport to an early grave.

Or more than two bacon rashers. As for pork scratchings or faggots and paes, even the mention of their very name is enough to give the good medics a fatal coronary. Which would presumably result in a premature death for them too.

According to an international investigation, it seems that processed meat, or meat as we call it in the Black Country, has joined the already massive list of things we are not supposed to eat.

Apparently, if we eat more than one ounce of processed meat a day, we will almost certainly die from an overdose of iron. That is if the cholesterol does not get to us first. Or the nitrates, which are added to improve the flavour, and presumably mask the taste from the liberal helpings of horse meat.

Of course, as many a Black Countryman will testify, there are certain pubs in the region where irksome questions about the nutritional content of processed meat products will lead to premature death, far more instantaneous than anything associated with the risks of a few too many carcinogens. Even so it makes for depressing reading.

Speaking as one who, on recent government advice, has cut down alcohol consumption to just five nights a week, it was bad enough hearing that even fizzy pop is now viewed as a potential killer. Apparently it should be taxed at 20 per cent, presumably in a bid to cut down on the menace of binge lemonade drinkers who wreak havoc in our city centres every Saturday night.

If the experts are to be believed, a diet of muesli, vegetables and water is our only hope if we are to avoid imminent and painful death. And only then if we get our obligatory five a day.

I don't know about you, but that's a prospect which fills me with dread. Which is just as well. According to another survey, anxious pessimists live longer than the rest of the population.

ON the subject of a vegetarian diet, it has just been revealed that several veggie lasagnes have been caught up in the horse meat scandal. Apparently they have been contaminated with unicorn.

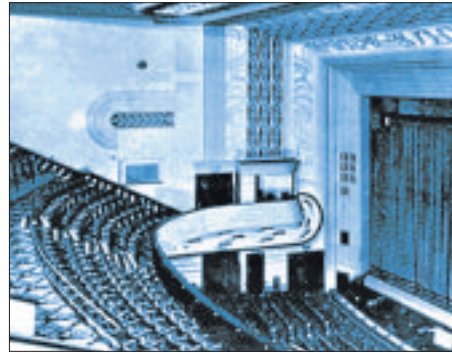
A TEENAGE boy in the Black Country. Is he a monsoon?



One of Beryl's old photographs showing her doing her cabaret act



A publicity shot of Beryl



The interior of the Dudley Hippodrome where Beryl performed

Singer Beryl recalls great days at the Hippodrome

Former Dudley singer Beryl Bate talks to **ANDREW TURTON** about her memories of her career and joining the fight to save the Hippodrome

AN adoring hometown audience cheering her from the rafters as she took to the stage of Dudley Hippodrome still lives in the memory.

Now singing star Beryl Bate wants other up-and-coming performers to experience life on the stage at the old theatre which is under threat of demolition.

Mrs Bate, who starred in a successful stage show at the theatre in the 1950s, has joined the voices of other campaigners trying to reopen the Hippodrome for future generations.

The pensioner from Pensnett trod the same boards graced by legendary names in showbiz including Bob Hope, Laurel & Hardy and George Formby.

Wonderful

"It was truly wonderful to appear on stage at the Hippodrome as I was so proud. The troupe I performed with were amazed by the brilliant atmosphere," said Mrs Bate, who has two children Dale and Deena.

She was born and raised in Pensnett and as a teenager found, while performing in pubs and clubs, she could sing like 1950s American jazz singer Kay Starr.

An agent told her about an advert in the New Musical Express looking for singers who could impersonate stars of the day.

She attended the audition in the Windmill Rehearsal Rooms in Piccadilly, in London, in 1957.

"When we attended it was like the X Factor of today," she said.

"There were 100s of young people



Beryl Bate who performed as a tribute singer in the 1950s now, aged 73

from all parts of the country who had come along for it," she said.

The impresario, a Mr C. Buckingham, invited her to join and soon 'Beryl Bate as Kay Starr' appeared in programmes and on billboards.

She joined the touring show Disc Doubles in 1958.

Success soon followed for the show and it was picked up by leading theatre owner and promotion company Moss Empires.

This led to shows at increasingly more impressive theatres - including

a week-long run at the Dudley Hippodrome.

"It was wonderful going to Dudley with the other performers to be seen by friends and family who could come to see the show," she said.

"I felt so proud to think I was performing in my hometown and it was exciting to be at the Hippodrome."

"Dudley Hippodrome was art deco and it was like no other theatre we had been to before because it was modern and the dressing rooms were tremendous," she added.

Her husband John, who worked at Round Oak Steelworks, rallied friends and family to come and see the show during its run.

The King's Head pub in Pensnett, also booked two coaches for friends to come and see the show while it was at the Hippodrome.

She would sing three songs and also take part in a group performance to open the show.

Other stars which were impersonated included Nat King Cole, Elvis and Louis Armstrong.

To while away the hours between evening performances, the cast were given complimentary passes to go around Dudley Zoo and Castle.

Homesick

But after months on the road, Mrs Bate was growing increasingly homesick and longed for life back in Dudley.

"I always had a comfortable home life and missed my family, friends and husband in our new house," she said.

She was eventually released from her contract - and was replaced by a singer impersonating 1950s Belfast-born songstress Ruby Murray.

"It was a wonderful experience and I can still smell the greasepaint but I made the decision to stop and it was the best decision I have ever made and I never regretted it," said Mrs Bate who still starred in cabaret shows afterwards.

"Even now I get people coming up to me saying about the show and saying 'you sung like Kay Starr' which is nice."

Mrs Bate, who carried on singing, is backing the campaign to save the theatre.

"It would be nice for the Dudley Hippodrome to open again so that others could perform in their hometown," she added.

THROUGH THE YEARS

1983...

A FACTORY worker from Coseley found himself at the centre of a full-scale drama after blinking at work. Three fire engines and an ambulance turned up to BJP Developments in Anchor Lane, Coseley, after Stephen Holmes got some grit in his eye. The accident had been misreported by an employee.

HUNDREDS of town hall staff and manual workers demonstrated outside Walsall council house in opposition to proposed wage cuts. Council chiefs had failed to agree over plans to curb spending and reduce the rates.

GRANDMOTHER Mabel Parkes had the mighty Coal Board at her mercy after finding out she was sitting on black gold. Mrs Parkes, whose husband Len was a former coalminer, entered into negotiations with the board after finding out there was 100,000 tons of quality coal under her Great Wyrley home.

1993....

A FORMER Wolverhampton family's ski holiday in Scotland was fraught with problems. Mrs Trudy Guy was knocked over by another skier, her seven-year-old son Andrew had to be stretched off and 10-year-old Simon arrived at Inverness Hospital with a broken shin.

THE owner of a Wolverhampton shop with only one sink received his annual water bill for nearly £1,000. Nigel Teather, owner of Photo Mecca was billed £964.76 for 1993-94, despite having no hot running water. A spokesman for Severn Trent said water rates were based on rateable value not the amount used.

A WOLVERHAMPTON couple were left with a sinking feeling after a surveyor's report confirmed their house was sliding into the ground. Christopher and Patricia Sweet demanded to be moved from their home in Hamilton Gardens, Bushbury.

2003...

PEOPLE across Staffordshire and the Black Country saw red in a bid to raise cash and a smile for Comic Relief. Fundraisers took part in a range of weird and wacky events across the region, including a bouncathon in Sandwell and a sponsored cycle at Tipton Sports Academy.

PART-TIME soldiers from across the Black Country and Shropshire were set to play a key role in providing ammunition for the offensive against Saddam Hussein in Iraq.

HIDDEN spy cameras designed to catch thieves on film helped to reduce the number of repeat burglaries in the West Midlands by almost a third.

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Museum's £1.25m new look

WORK has started on the £1.25 million restoration of part of a museum in the Black Country.

Sandwell Council has appointed Lindum BMS for the work at Oak House Museum in West Bromwich, which is expected to take a year to complete.

Two buildings will be renovated, one a 17th century timber-framed stable block in the grounds, which will hold exhibitions and the second a barn, dating back to the 1800s which will be developed as a shop, cafe, classroom, community room and toilets.



Jailed - Worrall

A PENSIONER went for a drive to help his insomnia but fell asleep at the wheel and crashed, killing another man

Michael Worrall was last week jailed for four years and eight months.

He was in his Vauxhall Astra to relax, having not slept for three nights.

But he fell asleep at the wheel and smashed into the back of

Geoffrey Harris's car in Stallings Lane, Kingswinford.

At Wolverhampton Crown Court Judge Michael Dudley banned the 70-year-old from driving for 10 years.

Prosecutor Joanne Parker told the court that experts estimated that the defendant would have been driving at about 43mph along the 30mph route when his car crashed.

She said that if Worrall had been awake and alert, he would

have had 12 seconds to stop his car before impact.

In the smash, at about 5am on February 27 last year, the 56-year-old victim, of Abberley Road, Lower Gornal, was thrown from his car, the court heard.

After his arrest Worrall told police he was not sure what had happened. He said he had not been sleeping well.

Worrall, of Withern Way, Lower Gornal, admitted causing

death by dangerous driving.

Defending, Roy Paterson said Worrall, a former building worker, had expressed "deep and genuine remorse".

He added: "He wishes the clock could be turned back."

Jailing Worrall, Judge Dudley told him: "On three occasions during the course of that night you made the conscious decision to drive your car."

"I find that frankly incredible."



Geoffrey Harris

New jobs planned at steel firm

A STEEL firm that makes parts for cars will expand and create 29 jobs, if plans are approved by council bosses.

Arcelor Mittal Auto Processing in Rowley Regis plans to extend its factory to install laser welding machinery. The firm also wants to build two canopies to allow loading and unloading of materials on to lorries to be done under cover.

The firm, which makes steel products for the automotive industry at its base on Cakemore Road, says the expansion will result in 29 new full-time jobs.

Youngsters' group wins £5,000 grant



Front, Jessica Dutton, aged four, back from left, Alex Sagar, William Sagar, five, Anna Wilson, 13, Rachel Siddall, Jude Siddall, 16 months, Jemma Sagar, Harry Sagar, two, Joanna Dutton and Viba Kumar

A GROUP in Dudley which supports children with Down's Syndrome and their families has been awarded a boost of almost £5,000 for new toys and equipment.

Ups & Downs, in Halesowen, was awarded the £4,595.20 from Dudley Council. Jemma Sagar, who runs the group with Joanna Dutton, said she was thrilled when she found out her application had been successful.

Mrs Sagar, 33, of Lopal in Halesowen, said: "We haven't bought everything yet but so far the children love it. They have really enjoyed playing with some of the new toys."

Gathering

Among those already bought are a sensory tent but there are plans to also buy other sensory toys, soft padding so the children don't hurt themselves and other specialist toys.

The group already has bubble tubes, sensory blocks and messy play equipment for children to enjoy.

Ups & Downs, which meets every second Saturday, has about 40 families on its books and around 10 families which attend every monthly gathering.

Mrs Sagar, who is mother to five-year-old William and two-year-old Harry who has Down's Syndrome, said parents and their children come from as far as Milton Keynes to be a part of Ups & Downs.

Meetings are held at St Peter's Church on Hiaplads Road in Halesowen.

Report trouble on the trains via text

RAIL passengers in the West Midlands can now report incidents to police via text.

The text short code, 61016, will give passengers the opportunity to report incidents.

The number is for low-level, non-emergency incidents, similar to the non-emergency 101 phone number used by police forces. British Transport Police hope passengers will be more likely to report such things as anti-social behaviour which would previously have gone unreported.

Chief Superintendent Peter Davies, area commander for BTP's Wales and Western region, said: "We aim to be as open and responsive as possible and this is the next logical step for us, as well as being good news for passengers."

"Text messaging is a quick way to communicate and we hope we'll get a more complete picture of the sort of low-level but common incidents that affect people's journeys."

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NEWS

Rachael gets a helping hand to land dream job

A YOUNG Black Country woman has landed her dream job after completing an employability course at Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop.

Rachael Platt has landed a job as a children's representative for holiday company Thomson and will soon be jetting off overseas this April to start her new role.

Working in partnership with Black Country Jobcentre Plus, the staff at Skills Shop helped five local people to prepare for their interviews with Thomson and its sister company First Choice.

They were looking to recruit holiday advisers and resort team leaders, sports coaches, children's representatives and entertainers to be based in short haul and medium haul destinations overseas.

Struggled

Rachael, aged 20, of Kingswinford, said: "As a former Stourbridge College student, having studied childcare level 3, I've always wanted to work with children but struggled to find full time work."

"I signed on at Stourbridge Jobcentre Plus and my advisor made me aware that Thomson were recruiting for representatives to work in their holiday resorts abroad."

"I attended their information day and I jumped at the chance to apply for one of the vacancies."

"I'm absolutely thrilled to have been successful following my interview and can't wait to start work."

Alison Mains, employer adviser at Stourbridge Jobcentre Plus, said: "Jobcentre Plus Districts have worked with Thomson and First Choice before to help the company fill vacancies and we were pleased that we managed to



Black Country Skills Shop job coach Samantha Dimmick, left, Thomson children's representative Rachael Platt and employer adviser Alison Mains

attract 12 unemployed local people to the information day. Rachael fulfilled all of the criteria in terms of qualifications and her determination to succeed."

Samantha Dimmick, job coach at Stourbridge College's Black Country Skills Shop, said: "We put together a course designed to help candidates prepare for the application and interview process."

"The course included customer

service and employability training as well as presenting information. We're delighted that Rachael has been successful by landing one of the jobs."

Ian Chapman, director of holiday experience for Thomson and First Choice said: "It's been great to get the support of the Job Centre Plus and the Skills Shop, who have helped to upskill unemployed candidates so that they are trained to the level required for our overseas roles."

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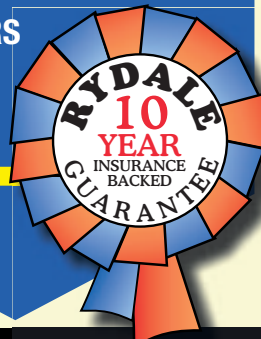
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Glass expert retires



Glass expert – Roger Dodsworth

ONE of Britain's leading experts on the glass industry has left his post at a Kingswinford museum after 35 years.

Roger Dodsworth has retired as keeper of glass and fine art at Broadfield House Glass Museum.

One of the founding fathers of the museum, Mr Dodsworth has written books on the West Midlands glass industry and has given many lectures in Britain and the US.

"I have been involved with the glass industry for a huge amount of my life, and in this area it is a great industry," said 60-year-old Mr Dodsworth.

He worked in the decorative arts department at the City Arts Gallery in his native Manchester. That fuelled his passion for glass, and when at 25 he heard there was a job in Dudley it was a dream come true – to



Roger outside the museum in 1985

be involved in the setting up of Britain's only publicly-owned glass museum.

Mr Dodsworth joined Dudley Museum, with the brief of setting up the now internationally-renowned glass museum at Broadfield House, which opened in 1980. One highlight was securing the purchase of a unique 19th century Stourbridge glass vase, which was discovered during the filming of Antiques Roadshow.

The owner, who lived in Norwich, was unaware of its significance. Mr Dodsworth says he intends to take a break, but to continue promoting the region's glass industry in some form.

He said: "I feel very proud in the role I have taken at Broadfield House, and I'm sure that whoever takes my place will continue with the work I have done."

Police check vans in new move against metal theft

A POLICE crackdown on vans weighed down with metal took place in the Black Country.

Officers stopped 25 vans to make sure they were operating within the law, and police visited 20 scrapyards including some in the Dudley area.

The vans were stopped just off Bilston Road in Wolverhampton. Five drivers were issued with orders to undertake urgent repairs, one was given a fine and six were handed

warning notices. Two vans were seized for no insurance.

In addition to the stop checks, officers also visited 20 scrapyards as part of the battle against metal theft.

None was found to have been breaking new laws which prevent yards from trading scrap for cash and which require sellers to produce photo ID.

Sergeant Rebecca Barnsley, of Bilston police station, organised the operation last week.

She said: "We are determined to make it as difficult as possible for

thieves to get rid of stolen metal. We regularly monitor yards across the West Midlands."

A regional metal theft taskforce was launched in summer 2012 to tackle the crime.

Along with West Midlands Police's Operation Steel and the national Operation Tornado, it has seen the number of metal thefts cut by more than half in 2012.

Thieves have targeted homes, churches, schools, hospitals, transport links and war memorials.

Cleaning contract welcomed

A CONTRACT for cleaning bus stations in the Black Country will save taxpayers £225,000 a year, transport bosses have said.

Transport authority Centro has signed a £525,000 annual deal with cleaning company Hi-Spec Services Ltd to run to 2015.

It provides for the daily cleaning of 12 bus stations including Stourbridge, and other premises.

Previously there had been three separate contracts in place.

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NEWS

Homes group ranks 40 out of top 100 bodies

WOLVERHAMPTON Homes is 40th out of the top 100 not-for-profit organisations to work for nationally.

The accolade came from independent organisation Best Companies and The Sunday Times. Wolverhampton Homes, which runs the city's council housing stock, began a project to gauge its employee engagement two years ago.

Staff were asked to rate it through in-depth surveys, covering leadership, personal growth and well-being.

Wolverhampton Homes chief executive Lesley Roberts said: "I am so proud of this fantastic achievement, especially as we have been told that it is remarkable to achieve such a high rating so quickly."



Headteacher Tina Gibbon with pupils Kola Hollington, nine, and Mia Bevan, eight, with Thomas Vale Project Manager Simon Holdsworth and, below, the fire two years ago



Arson-attack school is rising from the ashes

TWO years ago it was ravaged by arsonists – but now a huge new building is rising from the ashes of one of the worst school fires in recent years.

Wilkinson Primary was all but destroyed in October 2010, but work is gathering pace on the new site.

An £8.2 million project to build a school began two years on. The site has now been cleared and foundations are being laid ready for the new structure to take shape.

A timber frame is being erected and the new school is expected to be finished by the end of November.

The whole of the first floor frame has been completed and the rest of the structure is expected to take about seven weeks. Then windows and doors will be fitted before the walls are coated and insulated.

Webcam

Timber has been chosen for the frame as it will help keep heat in, because the school will be the latest to be built to Passivhaus standards, which reduces the amount of energy and heating needed through the design of the building.

Headteacher Tina Gibbon said: "It is all happening really quickly

now. There was a long period of time where the work was being done underground and it didn't look like much was happening, but it is getting very exciting now. It actually looks like a building now and you can actually see the rooms."

Children are watching the builders' progress on a webcam and they are taking regular photos. The charred remains of the school were demolished in October 2010.

The school's 357 pupils have been using 16 mobile buildings on the site since the blaze. The culprits were never caught.

Parking plan for disabled is scrapped

PLANS to scrap on-street parking for disabled people in Wolverhampton have been dropped amid concern that it would be difficult for them to get into the city centre.

Wolverhampton City Council had been looking to remove disabled spaces on a number of streets with disabled drivers instead offered free parking on off-street council-run car parks as part of a £5 million overhaul of the centre.

However, the authority has changed its mind after consulting the public.

The overall scheme would see one-way systems, pavements widened and streets pedestrianised.

Bishop praises foodbank work



The Bishop of Dudley, the Rt Rev David Walker with Black Country Foodbank founder Wendy Fryatt

FOODBANK volunteers have pleaded for more action to help the plight of struggling families as the Bishop of Dudley paid a visit to show his support.

More than 450 children a month are being helped by the Black Country Foodbank – up by 190 compared with the same time 12 months ago. And volunteers say more working families are now asking for support.

The bishop, the Rt Rev David Walker, visited the foodbank in Halesowen and said: "It is with great sadness that we need to have foodbanks but it is a fantastic job they do to help people in need."

"They see people in some terrible situations but they do work tirelessly and are dedicated to what they do."

Awareness

Around 35 volunteers work for the foodbank out of its headquarters. The organisation also has 10 branches, including Stourbridge. Each branch has about 12 helpers to give out the food and items like toiletries, and a new distribution branch is set to open in Tipton shortly.

The foodbank recently linked with Stourbridge Ryemarket as its chosen charity for this year to help further raise the awareness.

Foodbank founder Wendy Fryatt said: "It's absolutely amazing and it will do so much to help raise our profile and hopefully help us raise more donations and recruit more volunteers," she said.

"We always need more help, especially with the increase in by 66 per cent in the people that are coming to us."

Business output on the rise, says survey

BUSINESS output improved in most of the nine English regions last month, including the West Midlands, amid an upturn in new work orders, a survey has revealed.

Seven areas recorded growth in the Lloyds TSB Regional Purchasing Managers' Index, while only the North East and South West saw lower output.

Overall, the seasonally adjusted index of activity in England stood at 51.1, above the no-change mark of 50 for the fourth consecutive month but showing a marginally slower pace than the four-month high of 51.6 in January.

The greatest expansion was seen in the North West, which topped the regional growth table for the first time in three months, followed by the East of England and the South East.

Staffing levels remained resilient in almost all regions in February.

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Police hunting for man in connection with attack

DETECTIVES issued a photograph of a man suspected of breaking into a house and attacking a woman inside.

Police want to trace 20-year-old Alan Davies about the assault which left the woman, aged 19, with head and facial injuries. The attack happened at an undisclosed property, in Lye, on February 9.

Officers say the person who broke in was known to the victim.

Det Sgt Craig Harris, of Dudley Police public protection unit, urged people to come forward and help trace Mr Davies.

He said: "We want to hear from anyone who knows where Alan is, as we need to speak to him as part of our investigation into this assault."

"The victim's injuries were fairly serious and we urge people to help us trace the suspect, where possible."

Anyone with information is urged to phone the police non-emergency line 101.



Alan Davies

Beth works on album

A SHOPWORKER from Dudley, whose life was changed by a music producer, says she will release her second single in May.

Beth Sherburn, of Lower Gornal, saw her first single – a cover of Duran Duran's Ordinary World – reach number nine on the official UK charts.

Now the dance-pop singer, of Kingsley Road, is working on her second effort but has yet to decide on a title for the song.

The 21-year-old said: "I don't know what it will be called yet because I'm still getting my ideas together on the song."

"The past few months have been so busy with interviews and photo shoots and things so I'm just trying to devote as much time as I can to writing my songs."

Beth is also hoping to release her first

album in August or September. She said: "I've done about six or seven of the songs and an album usually has 12 or 13 so I'm getting there." Beth's songs are based on her own experience – whether it be her friends, relationships or a night out. She carries a dictaphone in her bag to record any surprise inspiration and then uses the piano to work on any song that might result.

Beth had always enjoyed singing and had grown up performing in school musicals and choirs but it wasn't until last December that she got her lucky break.

John McLaughlin, a producer who had worked with Westlife, was shopping at Debenhams in Merry Hill as perfume seller Beth sang a Christmas classic while working nearby. He immediately offered her a studio slot and days later he signed her to Purple Circle Records.



Beth Sherburn

Concern at shop names

THE names of some newsagents in Dudley have been criticised by a community leader – who claims they give out the wrong message.

Dudley councillor Ray Burston spoke of his concerns over names such as Fags and Mags, Fags and Booze and Bargain Booze.

He said: "This sends out the wrong message not just in terms of regeneration but education too."

Councillor Hilary Bills, chairman of the council's licensing and safety committee, agreed but said it was not in the council's remit to act upon such business names.

Diamond couple mark anniversary



Happy couple Gerald and Betty Sheaf, of Netherton, who are celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary

A COUPLE who met at a popular Dudley music venue have celebrated 60 years of happy marriage.

Gerald Sheaf was 21 when he first spotted his bride-to-be Betty at the Robin Hood in Pedmore Road, Brierley Hill.

It was love at first sight for the engineering worker but he had to work hard to persuade the then 17-year-old that he was the man for her.

"I saw her and thought I've got to know her. At first she didn't want to know but I eventually was able to break the ice and we courted for three years before we got engaged," he said.

The couple, of Stoney Lane, Netherton, tied the knot at Dudley Register Office on March 2 1953. They went on to have two daughters Lyn and Diane and have four grandsons, Andrew, Richard, Christopher and Jamie, and three great-grand-daughters Imogen, Anna and Louise.

Mr Sheaf, now aged 84,



Gerald and Betty on their wedding day

worked for engineering firms in Dudley and Birmingham while Mrs Sheaf, 80, worked at an embroiders.

The couple marked their milestone with a family celebration.

"We've had a wonderful life together and have been very lucky. We have the most wonderful children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren," said Mr Sheaf.

Reception to raise diseases awareness

REPRESENTATIVES from a Stourbridge charity have attended a reception at the Houses of Parliament to raise awareness of rare diseases.

Claire Hennessey and Julie Wootton, from Max Appeal, were invited to the event by the town's MP Margot James to discuss their work. It was hosted by Rare Disease UK which brings together patients and their families as well as health professionals.

Miss James, who is a patron of the rare disease charity FOP Action, has also raised the issue of funding for research into rare conditions in Parliament.

Julie Wootton said: "It was an enjoyable event with a good range of speakers providing both a clinical perspective and personal stories, which helped to paint a complete picture of the complexity, and issues, associated with rare disorders." Miss James added: "It is important that we do all we can to raise awareness and understanding."

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NEWS

New watch scheme aims to cut crime on churches

A NEW anti-crime watch group aimed at tackling theft and vandalism at churches has been launched.

The scheme, set up by police, sees them and church leaders in Dudley sharing crime prevention advice to help make buildings less vulnerable.

They also work with the community to encourage residents and passers-by to remain vigilant. The scheme which has been trialled in Brierley Hill has been welcomed by church leaders. Many churches across the borough have been targeted by raiders and yobs who have left congregations with costly repair bills.

Among those who have signed up to the Church Watch scheme is St John the Evangelist Church, Brockmoor, Brierley Hill.

The church, off High Street, was attacked when vandals destroyed headstones and crosses in the 19th century churchyard.

More than £14,000 damage was caused during the late-night attack in September.

St John's vicar, the Rev Steve Martin, said the church had been forced to close the burial ground to protect remaining graves.

"It was mindless vandalism. St John's is a community church so an attack on the churchyard is an attack on the community."

"Church Watch is a very good idea. We are also setting up a youth project which the police are helping us with," he added. For more information email brierleyhill@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk

Councillor gets his gong

A TOWN councillor from Bewdley who helps save lives as a community first responder has received his MBE, Paul Gittins, aged 65, has been awarded the honour for his service to the community, including as a first responder with the ambulance service and 19 years as a town councillor.

Mr Gittins, thought it was a hoax when he first received the letter. He said: "It was like winning the lottery and it was only when I looked at the envelope and the Home Office stamps that it was suddenly real."

Guide Davy is well gnome



Ranger Davy Turner launches his new book 'The BodenGnomes'

HE is well gnome as a tour guide and Davy Turner, from Dudley is enjoying life playing one of the mythical creatures at Bodenham Arboretum.

The 59-year-old ranger regularly dresses in full gnome attire, with a pointed hat and beard, and gives talks to parents and children about the history of the BodenGnomes, who live in the park alongside ordinary woodland gnomes.

Now, Mr Turner, from Kingswinford, is on the verge of releasing his first children's book, which tells of how the creatures came to live in the arboretum.

He said: "I wrote a book many years ago about the movies of Robin Hood but this is my first attempt at writing a children's book. The release date has been set for April

Fool's day. Some people have even teased that I'm the Midlands Enid Blyton."

Mr Turner has been a part-time tour guide at the attraction on the outskirts of Kidderminster for three years, after he was approached by employers to take part in the annual gnome hunt.

His book is available to buy from the arboretum and a percentage of its sales will go to Children in Need appeal.

Mr Turner will be on hand to meet and greet fans of the book on the day from 10am. Details and a map of this year's gnome hunt, on June 1, can be found at the visitor centre or by visiting www.bodenham-arboretum.co.uk.

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NEWS

Breweries cheered as drinkers opt for real ale

INDEPENDENT breweries saw a boom in beer sales of 6.8 per cent last year as more people turn to real ale.

Brewers sold more than 1.4 million barrels and increased workforces by 25 per cent to nearly 5,000 across the region in 2012. Their success came despite larger breweries cutting numbers. The figures are from the Society of Independent Brewers (Siba) in its 11th annual Local Beer Report.

Chief executive Julian Grocock said: "Local brewing is increasing production and market share, welcoming new producers, generating significant employment, investing for a sustainable future."

Mr Grocock said Siba brewers reinvested 23 per cent of their turnover in 2012, demonstrating real confidence in their businesses.

Capacity

Siba member Kinvor Brewery moved to larger premises last year because of growing demand.

Co-owner Dave Kelly said: "We were selling all the beer we could make and needed to move to increase capacity. We can now produce an average of 60 firkins a week."

The brewery, at Britch

Farm, Rocky Wall, won the Campaign for Real Ale's West Midlands beer of the year title in 2012 for its 7.6 per cent Over the Edge.

Mr Kelly said Kinvor, which started eight years ago, might take on extra staff if growth continued.

Chris Sadler, managing director of Sadler's Ales, Lye, said the brewery, which was launched nine years ago, had had strong growth and was now producing 3,000 barrels a year.

He said: "We took on an extra member of staff last year and we are opening a new pub in Worcester."

"We have also started selling our bottled beers through Tesco."

"In the next couple of years we are looking to build a bigger brewery."

Town's music scene boosted by new club



Mandy Jinks, one half of the partnership behind the launch of the new Rock Zombie Bar in Dudley

A ROCK club, the Rock Zombie Bar, has opened in Dudley town centre.

Kenny and Mandy Jinks have invested £40,000 in the venture in King Street which opened last week. They previously ran the Ye Olde Foundry pub, also in King Street.

Rock Zombie is in the basement of the Plaza Malls building owned by entrepreneur Tony Swannie.

Live music will be the main feature for the bar, with bands playing on Thursday and Sunday nights.

There will also be classic rock and metal nights on Fridays and Saturdays.

The Plaza Mall replaced a Woolworths store, which closed three years ago. The basement was used by a dance studio, which has moved to the first floor. Mr Swannie said: "We have filled every floor, which is fantastic. We have 150 people based at the building with 7,000 customers coming in and out of it each week."

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CLUB NEWS

Tea towels are the talk of meeting

KINGSWINFORD LADIES SOCIAL CIRCLE

FEBRUARY was the first meeting of 2013 and chairman Audrey Phipps gave her best wishes to the members and welcomed the speaker.

The secretary gave minutes of the November meeting.

Thank you letters have been received from The British Legion and The White House, Dudley, for the £80 donations the club has made to The Poppy Appeal and Cancer Support.

Edna Summers has sent a letter of thanks and is making a good recovery.

The treasurer's report shows a good bank balance at the end of January. The monies made by Val and Joan at the luncheons and sales table in the last two years will be used to purchase a microphone for the speakers. Ann read a thank you letter from the Fistula Hospital organisation.

The speaker was Fiona Lucas who gave a lively talk Tea towels from around the world. She received her first one 28 years ago for her bottom drawer and now has a collection of 180. Each of the 14 colourful towels which she brought in represented a country she, or a friend, had visited. There was always an amusing or informative tale attached to each one.

Many of Fiona's travels were made with the Girl Guides so we also gained an insight into the workings and achievements of that organisation.

Preparing for the Easter craftwork

Fight to end polio

SEDGLEY AND WOM- BOURNE ROTARY

MEMBERS raised £730 on Rotary Day 23 February 23 from collections at Coop Superstore, Sedgley, and Sainsbury's Superstore Wombourne.

The money to go towards the eradication of polio.

President Tony Brown said: "Rotary Day is a fitting day to raise funds and focus attention on Rotary International's global campaign, End Polio Now."

"Since 1985, Rotarians around the globe have raised over US\$1.2 billion dollars and spent millions of volunteer hours vaccinating children in countries affected by this crippling disease."

The fight to end polio is led by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which includes Rotary

International, UNICEF, the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, governments around the world and many others.

Global immunizations have had a huge impact with the result that the number of new polio cases - a disease which once paralyzed more than 1,000 children every day - has dropped more than 99 per cent since the 1980s.

Rotarian Alan Peace said: "Our aim is to help fund ongoing vaccination campaigns to protect children from paralysis."

"This will take lots of vaccine, lots of volunteer hours and lots of money."

WORDSLEY M TWG

THE February meeting was opened by chairman of the day Liz Hubbard, who welcomed visitors and a number of members attending the first meeting of the year.

The minutes of the previous group meeting, prepared by secretary Liz Moseley, were signed and Josie Bunn, treasurer, gave a detailed review of the accounts and read out a letter of thanks from our Christmas entertainers who received a donation for the Macular Degeneration Society.

There will be a craft workshop, making an Easter bunny, at the Ruskin Centre, Amblecote, on March 23.

The Lunch Club's birthday lunch on April 22 at the Himley Best Western Hotel.

Garden and coffee mornings will resume in April.

The theatre group will be a matinee on March 23 of the musical High Society at Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

Evening of entertainment

STOURTON WI

EVEN with the chill of winter, members have enjoyed the events held in January and February.

The committee were entertained by other members during a cabaret evening with a pantomime performance of Goldilocks and the Three Bears.

We guessed the adverts, had our handbags weighed and enjoyed delicious refreshments. Ray Sturdy

took us on a trip down memory lane with a talk and an extensive selection of slides showing a wide range of iconic images from the 1960s.

Topics included politics, pop music, films and fashion and the introduction of cheap foreign holidays.

An entertaining, nostalgic evening especially for those

of us who are still those 60s teenagers at heart.

In February Merrie Maggie gave details of the many activities run by the over-50s project and the encouraged us to take part in laughter yoga. We all went home smiling.

Visitors are always welcome to join us at Stourton Village Hall. Next meeting is on March 20 at 7.30pm.

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Education

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Our motto, "At Amblecote we achieve because in our pupils we believe", encapsulates what we are about.

Thank you to William for his inspirational idea for this motto, organised by our proactive School Council which ensures our pupil voice is heard.

At Amblecote we care for one another and this caring ethos is evident as you walk round the school. At Amblecote we love learning and we live to learn.

Inspires

Our expectations are high, enabling us to achieve tenth place in the Dudley primary schools league table for our SATs results in July 2012.

We deliver a wide, broad and balanced curriculum which ensures the children attain and apply the necessary skills in English and maths.

Our themed approach to learning inspires the children to investigate and learn through a cross-curricula approach. We vary our teaching styles to meet the differing learning styles of all of our pupils.

We recently achieved the Leading Parent Partnership Award for our work with parents and carers to ensure they could support their children to achieve well, and were able to play an active role in their children's development physically, academically, socially, morally and emotionally. We have a



Amblecote offers a wide, broad and balanced curriculum for its pupils

parent team which voices parents' views.

We believe in supporting the health and well-being of our children. We have the Healthy Schools gold award and we endeavour to develop emotional intelligence through our SEAL programme (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning).

All the children learn how to understand their own feelings and the feelings of others, and how their behaviour affects the behaviour of others. Our behaviour was accredited with "Good" by Ofsted.

We integrate with our community

through music, sport, gardening / Stourbridge in Bloom, School Council, Eco Warriors and the religions within our community.

Our foundation stage, including a thriving Pre School, was accredited with "Outstanding" by Ofsted and ensures our very young children get the best start to their school life giving them the confidence and skills to progress well.

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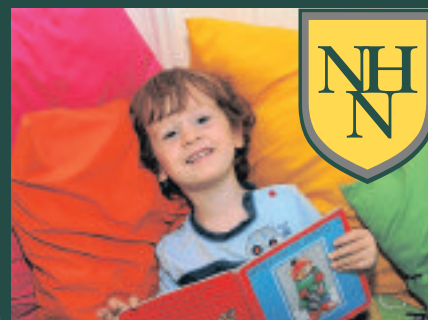
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HOUSE
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3 Norfolk Road, Edgbaston,
Birmingham B15 3PS

Tel:
0121 452 1485

Email:
enquiries@norfolkhouseschool.co.uk
www.norfolkhouseschool.co.uk



School really is at the heart of its community

AT Withymoor we pride ourselves on being a school that really is at the centre of its community.

The community centre attached to the school provides both a parent and toddler group and a playgroup, which operates every weekday morning in term time.

Following on from this, we have our own pre school which prepares the children brilliantly for full-time education as they approach their fifth birthday.

The journey through school begins in reception class where they quickly learn the skills required to read, write, understand and use number, as well as having plenty of opportunities for developing socially, emotionally and physically.

Progress

The next phase of their journey is through Key Stage One, by the end of which their achievement is well above the national average.

Children make excellent progress through our school, whatever their starting point.

The number of children making more than expected progress by the time they leave us at the end of Key Stage Two is also well above the national average.

Parents regularly tell us that their children love to come to school and this reinforces our aim of achieving excellence through enjoyment.

Our curriculum is designed to capture the children's interests and imagination and incorporates practical activities and learning outdoors wherever possible.

It is enhanced by plenty of after school clubs, including "Get Cooking" with our youngest children, to garden-



The Withymoor curriculum is designed to capture pupils' imagination and it includes learning outdoors whenever possible

ing, learning the guitar and a variety of sports clubs.

We have football and netball teams which play competitively in local leagues and a very active school choir which has performed in prestigious venues such as the LG Arena, Birmingham Symphony Hall, Dudley Town

Hall and Brierley Hill Civic Hall.

At our last inspection in February 2011, Ofsted inspectors described us as a good school.

We feel that since then we have improved even further. Why not come and judge for yourself?



The wonderful surroundings at Ham Dingle include two adventure playgrounds and an extensive playing field

Giving pupils the best opportunities possible

CHILDREN only have one experience in primary education, so at Ham Dingle, we ensure that our children have the best opportunities we can provide.

At our school in Pedmore, Stourbridge, we offer an environment that is stimulating and inviting.

Children who join us in reception, have a bright open-plan room with a fabulous covered secure outdoor area which can be used in all weathers.

We have wonderful surroundings including two outdoor adventure playgrounds and an extensive playing field.

Within the school, we have a large ICT suite and also give children access

to up-to-date mobile technology such as notebooks and laptops.

Our curriculum is inspiring and exciting from reception through to Year 6. The children's learning is based around "irresistible topics" such as tropical rainforests in Year 6 and superheroes in reception.

The topics cover all areas of the national curriculum, and all elements of ICT.

We also have an established link with a school in Italy which gives a global dimension to our curriculum and the chance for our children to learn about a different culture.

At Ham Dingle, we value the links between school and home and encourage parents to join in their children's learning.

Our "famous" parent pop-ins for each year group allow our parents to work with their children on different projects and share in the exciting learning experiences.

Our "open door" ethos encourages parents to work as a partnership with us which we believe is why our school is so successful.

Miss Joanne Davies, new Headteacher at Ham Dingle, says: "Ham Dingle is a unique and vibrant primary school, where all our children are given the opportunity to shine and achieve their full potential."

"Our dedicated, enthusiastic and committed staff team will ensure our school continues to grow and flourish and provide outstanding education for the children in our care."

*Excellence,
through Enjoyment...*



At Withymoor we pride ourselves on being a school that really is at the centre of its community.

Through a close association with the community centre attached to the school we provide a safe, happy, stimulating environment for children from toddlers right through to age eleven.

Stay and Play provide before and after school provision, as well as a holiday club for all school holidays with the exception of the last two weeks in August and the Christmas holidays

Ofsted say:

Pupils' achievement and attendance, all aspects of provision and the effectiveness of the Early Years Foundation Stage are all good.

Providing good care, guidance and support is central to the work of the school.

From the very first contact, the school works hard to establish positive relationships with parents and carers. They find the school accessible, and are confident that the staff will act upon any concerns they have.

The curriculum is well-organised and offers a broad range of experiences for pupils.

There are many striking examples across all years where stimulating resources are created to engage and motivate pupils.

In spite of being over subscribed for the last three years, we still have a small number of places in Reception Class for September 2013.

Anyone interested in taking one of these places should call the school office on 01384 818530 to arrange a tour around our happy, successful school.

Website: www.withymoor.dudley.sch.uk

Withymoor Primary School, Gayfield Avenue, Brierley Hill DY5 2BH

Tel: 01384 818530 Email: info@withymoor.dudley.sch.uk



HAM DINGLE PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Making learning outstanding and irresistible"

WHAT CAN WE OFFER YOUR CHILD?

- A lively, child centred and creative environment where all achieve their full potential.
- An inspiring, broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum.
- An extended school providing wrap around care.
- A safe and secure environment that ensures there are no barriers to learning and all children in our care are nurtured.
- An education that provides child skills for life

WHAT DID OFSTED SAY ABOUT US?

"Children make good progress across the school to reach standards that are above those expected for their age at the end of Year 6."

"The curriculum is particularly rich and exciting and provides a memorable learning experience for the children."



Education



Hob Green offers extra-curricular activities including an annual stay at Plas Caerdon outdoor education centre

Best ever results reflect work of staff and pupils

IN 2012, Hob Green Primary School pupils achieved their best ever results at the end of Key Stage 2 assessments with 96 per cent of mainstream children gaining Level 4 or above in both English and maths combined.

This places them third in the Dudley league tables. These results reflect the hard work and dedication of pupils, parents and staff.

This has been achieved by embedding an inspirational, creative curriculum which motivates and enthuses children and staff.

The school has a dedicated Speech and Language Centre that provides children from throughout the author-

ity with specialist language provision.

Hob Green offers a diverse curriculum that engages children as they are involved in its development. ICT is used throughout to facilitate its delivery and give children valuable skills.

Enthusiastic

Part of our varied curriculum includes debating at Dudley council chambers, performing in a gospel choir, peripatetic musical instrument tuition and forest schools to name but a few.

Quality teaching runs throughout the school, starting in the early years and foundation stage.

Ofsted reported: "The quality of teaching is good in the early years foundation stage. Planning is extremely thorough, involves the children's ideas and responds to their

interests well. As a result, the children greatly enjoy learning and are inquisitive and enthusiastic learners."

Hob Green also offers extra-curricular activities including a breakfast club, after-school clubs and residential experiences. One of our most popular visits takes place in the autumn term when Years 5 and 6 spend four nights at Plas Caerdon outdoor education centre. This is heavily subsidised by the school to allow all children the opportunity.

The school is working closely with Business in the Community, in particular Higgs & Sons Solicitors, to further develop the school grounds.

We have a limited number of places available at the school. For information call 01384 816730.

Achievements recognised at local and national levels

THE year 2012-13 has been yet another highly successful year on many fronts for Hagley Catholic High School with outstanding exam results at GCSE, AS and A-level.

Attainment at this level continues to mark it out as a flagship school both locally and at a national level.

The school was awarded an 'outstanding' rating by Ofsted in late 2011, placing it in the top 14 per cent of schools nationally. Further to this 2012/13 has brought two further significant endorsements of the quality of education it provides.

The school was delighted to receive a letter from The Rt Hon David Laws – MP, Minister of State for Schools, in which he congratulated the school on its achievements in the GCSE examinations of 2012.

Progress

The Department for Education's analysis, based on progress between Key Stage 2 and the best five GCSEs attained, including English and mathematics, placed the school among the top 100 best performing schools in the county.

He said: "Your school is exceptionally effective at educating its pupils."

This was swiftly followed by a visit from Her Majesty's Inspectors of Schools who focused on teaching and learning in science.

He reported that the achievements of pupils in science, the quality of teaching, the quality of the curriculum in science and the quality of leadership and management of science are all 'outstanding'.

From this he concluded that the overall effectiveness of education provided by the school is 'outstanding'.



Head teacher Ted Hammond, here with Rosie McGillion and Tom Clarke

Ted Hammond, head teacher commented that: "Each of these validations serves to underline the 2011 full Ofsted inspection judgement that the school is outstanding."

"They have been secured by the hard work and dedication of the governors, staff, pupils, parents of the school and that of our colleagues in our family of

primary schools and parishes who provide us with an excellent platform from which we can do our work."

The full reports and letter from The Rt Hon David Laws MP are available on the website, visit www.hagleyrc.com or alternatively, try the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk

Hob Green Primary School

www.hob-green.dudley.sch.uk

- We offer a child-led curriculum that is exciting, engaging and memorable.
- We ensure that the curriculum is reinforced with class trips.
- Residential are offered to all of the KS2 children.
- A safe, happy, stimulating environment where our children can thrive.
- Mainstream results for 2012 see 96% of children achieving Level 4 in both English and Maths.
- We have a commitment to ensure that our children can be the best that they can be.

Ofsted said:

"The quality of teaching is good in the Early Years Foundation Stage. Planning is extremely thorough, involves the children's ideas and responds to their interests well."

"Attendance across the school has improved rapidly."

"Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs make good progress, and are closing the gap on pupils nationally."

We have limited spaces available in Years 4 and 5. We would invite any prospective parents to contact the school office on 01384 816730.



Hob Green Primary School
Stourbridge, West Midlands, DY9 9EX

Tel: 01384 816 730

email: info@hob-green.dudley.sch.uk



Hagley Catholic High School

www.hagleyrc.com

"This school is outstanding" Ofsted 2011

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The Governors and Headteacher wish to congratulate all pupils that undertook public examinations in the 2012 series for the outstanding results they achieved and to publicly thank the hard-working and dedicated staff team that prepared them.

Well done everyone!





The Wollescote pupils with the bunches of daffodils, ready to make Mother's Day really special

School blooms to make it a special Mother's Day

THE CHILDREN at Wollescote Primary School had a very special message for their mothers this Mother's Day.

They handed over impressive bunches of bright yellow daffodils to their mums to say a big "thank you and love you lots".

Staff and parents at Wollescote have been fundraising this year in order to

pay for events such as Mother's Day.

Mrs Quigley, the Headteacher said: "working with parents to make sure school is fun is important to us. The whole school community joins in our fund raising events.

"The support we receive is super. Last Christmas's fair made an amazing £2,000 profit - even though it was held in the dark in the middle of a power cut."

The daffodils arrived in school on

Friday, to much excitement.

One pupil, Ammad in Year 4, said: "Mothers should get flowers because mothers always take care of us and love us as much as we do them".

Isha in Year 5 said: "Mums are golden, they should have daffodils as daffodils are gold too."

One parent, Mrs Rea said: "With four children in the school, my living room is looking a picture!"

Exciting changes lie ahead for Pedmore

EXCITING transformations at Pedmore Technology College and Community School in Stourbridge started with a "good" Ofsted in 2011 and continue with extensive revamps of school facilities.

They include a new state-of-the-art Independent Learning Centre and art studio and refurbished dining facilities.

There are many new initiatives being planned and exciting activities have already been experienced by the Pedmore students.

Those activities include a grand production of Bugsy Malone planned for the summer term, and residential trips to adventure parks.

There was also a recent research activity to the Warner Bros Harry Potter studio for creative media, art, design and travel and tourism students.

Learning

In addition, revision experts have visited the school to deliver intensive workshops to Year 11 students to help prepare them for their summer GCSE examinations.

Together, these activities help to ensure Pedmore students experience a vibrant and exciting learning environment.

In February, a group of eight, Year 10 graphic design students competed in the final heat of the Black Country Enterprise Challenge.

They presented their enterprise idea, a pop-up shop selling a unique clothing and accessory range aimed at the teenage market.

At the competition, the group impressed the programmes coordinator for Dudley Education Business



Pedmore students have a wide range of experiences available to them

Partnership so much, that she took the unusual step of offering to liaise with local retail unit managers to secure a shop in a local town.

That will be a boost for high street regeneration, while at the same time, help to turn the students' ideas into reality.

The shop will be hosted in the Stourbridge Ryemarket Shopping Centre, launching in June.

The school is now registering with Young Enterprise to be entered into a national competition next year related to this business venture.

Current and new Year 10 students involved in the venture will also be able to gain a qualification in Enterprise.

To find out more about Pedmore Technology College and Community School, call ring 01384 816660 or visit www.pedmoretc.dudley.sch.uk

Wollescote
Primary School

www.wollescoteschool.com



Ofsted

raising standards
improving lives

**What Ofsted say
about our school:**

Teaching is good

*We successfully engage
parents and carers in
working together.*

*We effectively provide
pastoral care for pupils.*



Application requests for Nursery places at Wollescote Primary School are now being taken. Application forms are available from the school office.

Drummond Road, Lye, Stourbridge,
West Midlands DY9 8YA

Tel: **01384 818500**

A "Good" School (OFSTED 2011)

with 86% at 5 or more GCSE grades A* - C



The Right Choice for Your Child

**Pedmore Technology College &
Community School, Stourbridge**

www.pedmoretc.dudley.sch.uk 01384 816660

Education

Glynne's staff and pupils are praised by inspectors

ALL at Glynne Primary were delighted with the outcome of their recent Ofsted inspection.

The inspection team praised good and outstanding teaching and complimented the school on the quality of the curriculum.

The inspectors commented: "The school provides pupils with a stimulating and interesting range of subjects. Such high quality experiences develop their spiritual, moral, social and cultural awareness very well."

"Teachers have high expectations and teach interesting lessons. The teaching observed during the inspection was consistently good, and some was outstanding."

"Teachers make very good links across different subjects so that pupils are excited by what they are learning."

The good progress that children make was also recognised. Ofsted praised the teaching of early reading skills and the promotion of reading across the school.

Positive

The inspectors said: "All groups make good progress from their individual starting points, regardless of ability or background."

The school was described as "a happy, harmonious community where pupils say they feel safe."

Children were also praised for their good behaviour, positive attitudes to learning and eagerness to learn.

The school prides itself on providing a well-rounded education giving high priority to music, art and PE as well as the basic skills of English and maths. Ofsted noted: "The school provides excellent opportunities for pupils to



Ofsted praised Glynne's pupils for their behaviour and positive attitudes

take part in performing and sporting activities."

The school has also recently been awarded a Level 1 Rights Respecting Schools Award as well as having achieved the International Schools Award, the Inclusion Quality Mark and Investors in People.

Headteacher Sue Cameron said: "We are very proud of what we have achieved. Over the past three years staff have worked hard on introducing an exciting and motivating curriculum which has positively engaged both children and parents in learning. Glynne is a great school to be in!"



Abi Homer and Josh Batth with Mr Clague and Mrs Hanson and an engraved Staffordshire two-piece lamp, handed to Maharaja Sawai Man Singh Vidyalaya (MSMSV) School in Jaipur, during a recent visit

Principal of improving Thorns expects record GCSE results

THE transformation of Thorns Community College continues with the Principal, Mr Deane Baker, expecting 64 per cent of the current Year 11 students to achieve five or more A*-C GCSE results including maths and English, compared with the national figure for 2012 - 59.4 per cent.

As well as academic improvement, the college refurbishment programme

is continuing, with many areas being remodelled to make the best use of space so that students can learn in a more positive and conducive atmosphere.

The college population integrates and works well together, and this is particularly noticeable in the vertical mentoring groups.

Mr Baker said: "Thorns has come a long way since I was appointed principal in January 2011."

"We recognise our strengths and achievements and want to build on these to make Thorns even more suc-

cessful. This is not a time to rest on our laurels, our students deserve the very best."

In addition to classroom activities, there are many other areas of school life, which students can participate in.

Some of the recent activities included a trip to the UK Mathematics Trust Team Maths Challenge 2013 regional final, a ski trip to Austria and visit to Cambridge for gifted and talented pupils, charity event, school production, and a visit to Jaipur in India to name just a few.



Glynne Primary School A good school!

Ofsted said:

- Pupils are proud of their school.
- Pupils enjoy being at school, and feel very safe and well looked after.
- Pupils are polite and courteous and get on well with each other.
- Teachers have high expectations of work and behaviour, and plan demanding tasks to make sure pupils make good progress in their learning.
- The school promotes reading well.
- Children make good progress in the Early Years Foundation Stage, particularly in developing their communication, reading and personal and social skills.
- The good-quality 'wraparound care' is appreciated by parents.
- Pupils achieve well and make good progress.

Ofsted November 2012

'A super school with a lovely ethos - keep up the great work!'

Chris Kelly MP March 2012

For more information please visit our website www.glynne.dudley.sch.uk or to arrange a visit please contact school.

Headteacher: Mrs S. Cameron
Glynne Primary School,
Cot Lane, Kingswinford, DY6 9TH
Telephone: 01384 816960

"Aiming High"



Celebrating Learning; Celebrating Success; Celebrating the Arts

It's official! Ofsted recently said:

- At the heart of the school's quick improvement has been better teaching
- The Principal shows an outstanding commitment to improving the school
- Students of different ages and ethnic backgrounds get on well together
- There have been significant improvements to the behaviour and attitude of students
- Good quality training and support for teachers has been provided

GCSE results in 2012 were the best ever at the school

If you are looking for a September 2013 place for your child, please come and see our rapidly improving school and find out about our plans for the future

Stockwell Avenue, Quarry Bank
West Midlands, DY5 2NU

Contact us to arrange a visit

Stockwell Avenue, Quarry Bank, West Midlands, DY5 2NU

Tel: 01384 816225 Fax: 01384 816226

Email: info@thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk

www.thorns-s.dudley.sch.uk



What's On! Stourbridge

Male choir ready to sing in concert

THE Gentlemen Songsters Male Voice Choir is performing their spring concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday March 23 at 7.30pm.

The performance is compared by Susie Riddell, who plays Tracy Horrobin in Radio 4's Archers) and featuring Jean Martyn, who was Britain's Got Talent finalist in 2011.

Other guests are Cotwall End Primary School Choir. Tickets are £10.

Unmythable tales of Greek stories

ALL the greatest Greek myths in just one hour will be on show at Unmythable, a performance with theatre, storytelling and song.

The journey through the greatest Greek myths will include Midas, the Odyssey and what really happened in that wooden horse.

The performance is at Stourbridge Town Hall on Friday March 15 at 1.30pm. Tickets are £7.

Fureys bringing a touch of Ireland

IRISH folk legends The Fureys & Davey Arthur will be appearing for a special St Patrick's weekend concert at Dudley Town Hall on Saturday March 16.

Renowned for their hit songs I will love you, When you were sweet 16 and The Green fields of France, the band will be on stage from 7.30pm. Tickets are £20.

You'll be feline groovy at the purr-fect escapist musical

ONE of the most popular musicals in West End and Broadway history is back on the road. The Memory will be just as sweet when Cats invade Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre on Tuesday, March 19, running until Saturday, March 30.

Only The Phantom of the Opera - which also has a touring version in the region, at Birmingham Hippodrome until May 4 - has enjoyed a longer run on Broadway.

With its incredible costumes, feline choreography and standout song Memory, as sung by tragic Grizabella, musical fans will welcome back a classic show not seen in the UK since 2008.

Andrew Lloyd-Webber's blockbuster is based on TS Eliot's Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats, introducing an array of character cats.

Disco

The emphasis is on trans-glam when Jason Donovan reprises his West End role as Tick in disco-tastic Priscilla Queen of the Desert, the Aussie musical about the exploits of a group of drag queens. It's at Birmingham New Alexandra Theatre from Monday, March 18, to Saturday, March 30.

For a drama alternative, Birmingham writer Robin French moves Ibsen's Hedda Gabler to Edgbaston for Heather Gardener at the Old Rep from tonight (Thursday) to March 28.



Oliver Savile as the Rum Tugger in Cats

Welsh rockers return to the Civic



Get your gladrags and, if you wish, handbags because The Stereophonics are back

THE Stereophonics are roaring back with a strong new album, Graffiti On The Train, released last week, to be road tested on a tour including a sold out gig at Wolverhampton Civic Hall on Saturday night.

If that is half as good as their last blistering performance at the venue, it could be one of city's best gigs of the year.

Kelly Jones and co have toured the world over 17 years and achieved five chart-topping albums, including 2008's million-selling 'best of A Decade In The Sun'.

Their eighth album is their first since quitting a major label and setting up their own Stylus Records. The album is based on screenplay by singer and guitarist Kelly Jones about the aftermath of a tragic accident and combines their familiar melodic rock style, like new single Indian Summer, with new ideas.

For a band that have played at the Millennium Stadium and Hyde Park Live 8, the Civic will seem like an intimate gig.

Monk on the cold trail of dark deeds

Cadfael
Grand Theatre
Wolverhampton

THE crime-solving monk is back. Brother Cadfael's sleuthing skills have been brought to Wolverhampton's Grand Theatre.

The Virgin in the Ice is a tale of confusion, missing persons and intrigue set in England's darkest age.

The tale revolves around a cold English winter in the 12th century where violent gangs roam the countryside, two young nobles are lost and suspected dead when a body is found and Cadfael steps in to help find the killer.

This production was not the slickest thing with scenery wheeled on as actors began their lines and despite the stage hands cloaked in monks outfits it seemed a little unorganised.

This combined with one of the most comical slow motion swordfights I have ever seen, made it a bit painful to watch at times.

However, the plot was good with plenty of twists and the cast were all excellent each giving a sterling performance, particularly Gareth Thomas (Cadfael) who bought the role, played so well by Derek Jacobi on TV, to life on stage.

For those that love the original program this will be a welcome return, but for those who are less familiar with the series may struggle with the slow plot line.

Tom Mason

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What's On!

SATURDAY'S TV 16.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



Churchill and the Fascist Plot
Channel 4, 7pm
 In May 1940, Britain was facing the prospect of a Nazi invasion. Winston Churchill didn't just have Hitler to worry as there was also a threat from Britain's own fascist sympathisers: the "fifth column" that could erode Britain's war effort from within. Days after Churchill became Prime Minister, MI5 descended on central London, keen to question members of The Right Club, an organisation and pro-Nazi society led by Archibald Ramsay MP. The aristocrat's organisation wanted to create an alliance with Hitler.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live. **11.30** Nigel Slater's Simple Cooking. **12.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **12.15** Football Focus. **1.00** Formula 1 - Australian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. **2.05** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **4.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. **7.00** BBC News; Regional News; Weather. **7.15** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a star-studded version of the unorthodox general knowledge quiz. (R) **8.00** The National Lottery: In it to Win It. Dale Winton presents the quiz in which five contestants pit their wits to scoop a big cash prize. Includes the National Lottery draws, presented by Myleene Klass. **8.50** Casualty. Jeff gets caught up in a marital dispute. Robyn breaches patient confidentiality and Linda tries to give a woman with a learning-disabled son some respite. **9.40** Mrs Brown's Boys. Trevor has decided to work for a mission project in Africa, so Agnes resolves to throw him an unforgettable send-off, while Cathy's family counselling session descends into chaos. (R) **10.10** BBC News; Weather. **10.30** Match of the Day. Including highlights of Everton v Manchester City; National Lottery Update. **11.50** The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games, including Barnsley v Watford. **1.05** Weatherview. **1.10** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This Is BBC Two. **7.30** Great British Menu. (R) **8.00** Great British Menu. (R) **8.30** Great British Menu. (R) **9.00** Great British Menu. (R) **9.30** Great British Menu. (R) **10.00** A History of Britain by Simon Schama. (R) **11.00** Meet the Ancestors. (R) **11.30** Map Man. (R) **12.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **1.30** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.00** Country Show Cook Off. (R) **2.30** Mastermind. (R) **3.00** University Challenge. (R) **3.30** Flog It! **4.30** Final Score. **5.30** Great Continental Railway Journeys. **6.00** Dad's Army. Mainwaring's platoon tries to raise money for the local Spitfire fund by having a bash at morris dancing. (R) **6.30** Top Gear Africa Special - Part Two. Part two of two. Jeremy Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May conclude their quest to find the source of the River Nile in Africa using three old estate cars. Last in the series. (R) **7.30** Live Six Nations Rugby Union. France v Scotland (Kick-off 8.00pm). Gabby Logan presents coverage of the final match of this season's championship, held at the Stade de France. **10.00** Film: Africa United. (2010) Premiere. Three Rwandan children walk 3,000 miles to South Africa to attend the 2010 World Cup. Comedy. **11.20** Dancing on the Edge: Interviewing Louis. Companion piece to Stephen Polakoff's drama, starring Chivette Ejiofor and Erya Ndayambaje. (R) **12.00** Film: Badlands. (1973) **1.50** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Animals. (R) **7.20** Animals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Ultimate Spider-Man. **8.30** Victorious. **9.00** Jessie. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.20** My Tasty Travels with Lynda Bellingham. (R) **11.20** Dinner Date. (R) **12.20** ITV News; Weather. **12.30** Countrywise. (R) **12.50** You've Been Framed! (R) **1.20** Film: Mutiny on the Buses. (1972) **3.00** The Chase: Celebrity Special. (R) **4.00** Midsomer Murders. (R) **6.00** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.15** ITV News; Weather. **6.30** New You've Been Framed! A fresh selection of comical clips. **7.00** Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway. The duo go head to head in their latest challenge and play another undercover prank on an unsuspecting star. **8.20** The Cube. A sales assistant and a police officer try to complete a series of increasingly difficult tasks in the hope of winning a jackpot of £250,000. Phillip Schofield hosts. **9.20** The Jonathan Ross Show. The host chats to Doctor Who himself, Matt Smith, and Ruth Jones, the star and co-writer of Gavin & Stacey. Welsh rockers Stereophonics provide the music. **10.20** ITV News; Weather. **10.35** Film: Total Recall. (1990) Sci-fi thriller, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger. **12.45** Jackpot247. **3.00** In Plain Sight. (R) **3.45** ITV Nightscreen.

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** Will & Grace. (R) **7.25** The Grid. **7.55** The Morning Line. **8.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.25** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **9.55** Frasier. (R) **10.30** Frasier. (R) **10.55** The Simpsons. (R) **11.25** The Simpsons. (R) **11.55** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.20** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.45** Undercover Boss USA. (R) **1.45** Channel 4 Racing. **4.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **4.45** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.15** Come Dine with Me. (R) **5.50** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.20** Come Dine with Me. (R) **6.45** Channel 4 News. **6.55** 4thought.tv. **7.00** Churchill and the Fascist Plot. The story of pro-Nazi society the Right Club, led by Archibald Ramsay, an MP in Winston Churchill's own party who planned to undermine Britain's war effort from within. **8.00** Kevin McCloud's Man Made Home. The Grand Designs host introduces a touch of luxury to his handmade cabin, finding a unique solution for a hot tub and fashioning a robe out of alpaca wool. Last in the series. (R) **9.00** Film: 127 Hours. (2010) A mountain climber is trapped by a boulder in a remote canyon and reluctantly takes desperate measures to survive. Danny Boyle's fact-based drama, with James Franco and Kate Mara. **10.45** Big Fat Quiz of the 00s. Jimmy Carr tests six celebrities on their knowledge of the 2000s. (R) **12.20** Film: Once Upon a Time in America. (1984) **4.05** Hollyoaks.

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake! **10.15** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.50** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.15** Inside Hollywood. **11.25** Robson's Extreme Fishing Challenge. (R) **12.25** Police Interceptors. (R) **1.25** CSI: NY. (R) **2.20** CSI: Miami. (R) **3.10** CSI: Miami. (R) **4.05** Film: Private Benjamin. (1980) **6.10** 5 News Weekend. **6.15** Film: Cumbria: Uneasy Lies the Crown. (1990) A dentist plans to poison his wife's lover and make it look like she killed him, but reckons without the attentions of the crumpled cop. Crime drama, with Peter Falk. **7.50** NCIS. The team tries to trace the history of a gun believed to have been used in a murder at a naval base, and the family of the child who found the weapon comes under suspicion. (R) **8.45** NCIS. CIA agent Trent Kort returns to track down a dangerous criminal, and Gibbs is forced to put his personal feelings aside to assist in the investigation. (R) **9.40** Law & Order: Special Victims Unit. A photograph of a murder scene is leaked online. **10.35** Law & Order: Criminal Intent. A murder is linked to a community hospital. **11.35** True Crimes: The First 72 Hours. A man is suspected of murdering his wife. **12.05** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Merlin **7.45** Doctor Who **8.30** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001) **10.00** Grimsy's Comic Relief **10.10** Late Nighter **11.25** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 Britain on Film: Dedicated Followers of Fashion **7.30** Nureyev - From Russia with Love **9.00** Spiral 4: State of Terror **11.10** Glen Campbell: The Rhinestone Cowboy **ITV2**
5.45 Film: Beethoven's 2nd (1993) **7.35** Film: Hulk (2003) Comic-strip adventure, starring Eric Bana. **10.20** Celebrity Juice: Hunks Special **11.10** Film: Knocked Out (2007) **ITV3**
3.35 Film: Summer Holiday (1963) **5.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **6.55** Lewis. The death of an Oxford don leads to the shady underworld of unlicensed boxing. **9.00** Foyle's War **11.00** Film: Air America (1990) **ITV4**
3.50 Film: Where Eagles Dare (1969) **6.55** TT Legends **7.30** GT Academy **8.00** River Monsters: Deadliest Catfish **9.00** Film: Mars Attacks! (1996) **11.10** Film: Death Wish 2 (1981) **E4**
3.35 Rules of Engagement **6.00** The Big Bang Theory **7.00** Happy Endings **8.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.30** Broke Girls **9.00** Film: Transporter 2 (2005) **10.50** The Big Bang Theory **11.45** The Cleveland Show **Film4**
2.45 The Thirty-Nine Steps (1959) **4.45** Love Happens (2009) **6.50** 27 Dresses (2008) **9.00** Good Morning, Vietnam (1987) Comedy drama, starring Robin Williams. **11.25** Julia's Eyes (2010) Premiere. Thriller, starring Belen Rueda.

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What's On!

SUNDAY'S TV 17.03.13

Listings supplied by Press Association

CHOICE



The Queen

Our Queen
ITV, 8pm

In the past 12 months, the Queen has celebrated her Diamond Jubilee, learned she was going to become a great-grandmother again, and parachuted into the Olympics. (Well, okay, she didn't really do that last one, but she did get to meet James Bond.) But how did the monarch really feel about her landmark year? This two-hour documentary should provide us with some insights as it follows the monarch over the course of 2012. But it's not all about the pageantry - there's also an examination of how the Queen manages with day-to-day demands.

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** The Big Questions. **11.00** Sunday Politics: Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.20** Countryfile: A Royal Appointment. (R) **1.20** Call the Midwife. (R) **2.20** Formula 1 - Australian Grand Prix Highlights. **4.20** Comic Relief - The Best Bits. **5.20** Liffeline. **5.30** Songs of Praise. **6.05** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **6.30** Countryfile. The team heads to Lyme Bay on the Dorset and east Devon coast, where Julia Bradbury explores a rich geological history that has made it very popular with fossil hunters. **7.30** Antiques Roadshow. Fiona Bruce and the team travel to Chatham in Kent, where items include poison bottles and a gruesome spiked object believed to have been used to ward off highwaymen. Red button viewers can play along by guessing the valuations. **8.30** The Lady Vanishes. A socialite investigates the disappearance of a fellow train passenger - whom everyone else on board denies ever having seen. Mystery, starring Tuppence Middleton. **10.00** BBC News: Regional News; Weather. **10.25** Match of the Day 2. A review of the day's Premier League matches, which were Sunderland v Norwich City, Tottenham Hotspur v Fulham, Chelsea v West Ham United and Wigan Athletic v Newcastle United. **11.45** Regional Programme. **12.15** The Apprentice USA. **1.00** Weather. **1.05** BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 This is BBC Two. **6.45** Film: Primrose Path. (1940) **8.15** Life in a Cottage Garden with Carol Klein. (R) **8.45** Gardeners' World. (R) **9.15** The A to Z of TV Gardening. **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bits. **11.30** The Little Paris Kitchen: Cooking with Rachel Khoo. (R) **12.00** EastEnders. (R) **1.55** Coast. **2.15** Hairy Bikers' Best of British. (R) **3.00** Restoration Home. (R) **4.00** Figure Skating: World Championships Highlights. **6.00** Food & Drink. A discussion on entertaining friends, with guest Rachel Khoo. Last in the series. (R) **6.30** Plog III. **7.00** Dragons' Den. A Welsh grandmother charms the Dragons as she tries to secure investment for her food website, while the usual rules of the Den are disregarded during a pitch for a haircare brand. (R) **8.00** Best of Top Gear. Highlights from the most recent series of the motoring magazine. **9.00** Toughest Place to Be a Farmer. A dairy farmer lives and works with tribesmen in Kenya. **10.00** Mock the Week Looks Back at Education. Highlights from the quiz show on the theme of education. **10.30** It's Kevin. New series. Comedy sketches and songs, starring Kevin Eldon. **11.00** Comic Relief - The Best Bits. Highlights from Friday's fundraising extravaganza. **12.00** Six Nations Rugby Union. **12.45** Film: Down in the Valley. (R) **3.35** Being Eileen. (R) **4.05** Comic Relief: Through Hell and High Water. (R) **5.05** This is BBC Two.

ITV

6.00 CITV: Mickey Mouse Clubhouse. **6.25** The Hive. (R) **6.35** The Hive. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Dino Dan. (R) **7.10** Canimals. (R) **7.20** Canimals. (R) **7.25** Bookaboo. **7.40** Matt Hatter Chronicles. (R) **8.05** Rated A for Awesome. **8.15** Rated A for Awesome. **8.30** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **8.45** Almost Naked Animals. (R) **9.00** The Aquabats Super Show. **9.25** ITV News. **9.30** The Jeremy Kyle Show USA. **10.25** Dickinson's Real Deal. (R) **11.25** All Star Family Fortunes. (R) **12.10** ITV News: Weather. **12.15** Film: Carry On Don't Lose Your Head. (1966) **2.00** Doc Martin. (R) **3.00** Food Glorious Food. (R) **4.00** Agatha Christie's Marple. (R) **6.00** You've Been Framed! Comical clips, featuring an exploding beanbag. (R) **6.30** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.45** ITV News: Weather. **7.00** Who Wants to Be a Millionaire? Best of Friends Special. With Sebastian Cole, Steve Cram, Louis Smith, Paul Hall, Sally Lindsay and Steve White. **8.00** Our Queen. Feature-length documentary filmed throughout 2012, providing a portrait of Elizabeth II during her Diamond Jubilee year. **10.00** Perspectives: David Suchet - The Mystery of Agatha Christie. New series. The Poirot star explores the life and work of the crime writer. **11.00** ITV News: Weather. **11.15** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union. Extended highlights of the final in Worcester. **12.15** The Store. **2.15** Monk. (R) **3.00** ITV NightScreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

6.10 The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.05** Will & Grace. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **7.55** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.25** Frasier. (R) **8.55** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.05** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.25** The Simpsons. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** Film: Picture Perfect. (1997) **4.25** Time Team. **5.30** Deal or No Deal. **6.25** Channel 4 News. **6.55** 4thought.tv. As the UN warns that a global shift to a vegan diet is needed to save the world from hunger, members of the public consider whether it is morally wrong to eat meat every day. **7.00** Come Dine with Me. Former Miss Rugby Jade Hollis, film and TV extra Susan Gillis, recruitment boss Lee Bunting and academic Alan James compete for the £1,000 prize in Warwickshire. (R) **8.00** The Secret Millions. New series. Five celebrities work with charities developing innovative projects and covertly try to secure £2million in lottery funds to help turn ideas into reality. **9.00** Film: Salt. (2010) Premiere. A CIA agent goes on the run after she is accused of being a sleeper assassin sent to kill the Russian president. Action thriller, with Angelina Jolie. **11.00** Film: Sunshine. (2007) Sci-fi thriller, starring Cillian Murphy and Angelina Jolie. **1.00** How to Build a Bionic Man. (R) **1.55** Film: Silent Light. (2007) **4.15** St Elsewhere. (R) **5.00** Deal or No Deal. **5.45** Baking Mad with Eric Lanlard. (R)

CHANNEL 5

6.00 Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fifi and the Flowerets. (R) **6.25** Bert and Ernie's Great Adventures. (R) **6.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **6.45** Olive the Ostrich. (R) **6.50** Abby's Flying Fairy School. (R) **7.00** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **7.20** Animal Antics. (R) **7.25** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.35** City of Friends. (R) **7.50** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.15** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **8.30** Mio Mao. (R) **8.45** Rupert Bear. (R) **9.00** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **9.10** Toby's Travelling Circus. **9.25** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **9.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **10.00** Power Rangers Samurai. (R) **10.35** Batman: The Brave and the Bold. **11.00** Inside Hollywood. **11.10** Once Upon a Time. (R) **12.05** Cowboy Builders. (R) **1.05** Film: Scooby-Doo 2: Monsters Unleashed. (2002) **2.50** Film: Sabrina the Teenage Witch. (1996) **5.15** Scooby Builders. (R) **6.10** 5 News Weekend. **6.15** Film: Ace Ventura: When Nature Calls. (1995) Comedy sequel, starring Jim Carrey. **8.00** Film: Legally Blonde. (2001) Comedy, with Reese Witherspoon and Luke Wilson. **10.00** Person of Interest. Carter gains further insight into Reese's secret life. **10.55** Film: The Long Kiss Goodnight. (1996) Action thriller, starring Geena Davis. **1.10** SuperCasino. **4.00** HouseBusters. (R) **4.25** Divine Designs. (R) **4.50** County Secrets. (R) **5.05** Hanna's Helpline. (R) **5.15** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.40** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.50** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

DIGITAL

BBC Three
7.00 Pop's Greatest Dance Crazes **7.10** Great Movie Mistakes IV: May the Fourth Be with You **8.10** Film: Lara Croft: Tomb Raider - The Cradle of Life (2003) **10.00** In the Flesh **11.00** Bluestone 42 **11.30** Family Guy
BBC Four
7.00 The Many Faces of Les Dawson **8.00** Parks and Recreation **8.45** Minuscule: The Private Life of Insects **9.00** The Incredible Story of the Monarch Butterfly: Four Wings and a Prayer **10.00** Film: Apocalypto (2006)
ITV2
3.15 Ant & Dec's Saturday Night Takeaway **4.35** Film: Richie Rich (1994) **6.25** Film: King Kong (2005) **10.00** The Only Way is Essex **10.50** Big Rich Texas **11.50** Celebrity Juice: Hunks Special
ITV3
3.50 Cornwall with Caroline Quentin **4.50** Murder, She Wrote **5.50** Wycliffe **6.50** Agatha Christie's Poirot **8.00** Lewis **10.00** Film: The Elephant Man (1980)
ITV4
3.55 Film: All Quiet on the Western Front (1930) **7.00** Fabrica Muamba: Sports Life Stories **8.00** Anglo-Welsh Cup Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Tremors (1989) **10.55** Film: Species: The Awakening (2007)
E4
4.25 Revenge **5.30** The Big Bang Theory **6.30** New Girl **7.00** How I Met Your Mother **8.00** Film: Transformers (2007) **10.50** Rude Tube 2012 **11.50** The Body Shocking Show
Film4
3.05 The Lady Vanishes (1979) **5.05** Aquamarine (2006) **7.10** Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer (2007) **9.00** Ghost (1990) **11.25** Don't Look Now (1973)

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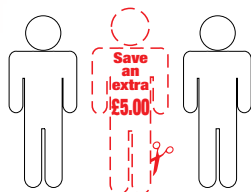
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What's On!

Film Choices

MONDAY

Revolver, Channel 5, 11pm

A gambler endures a seven-year stint in solitary confinement after being set up by his deranged and dangerous former boss, a malevolent casino owner who also murdered his sister-in-law. On release he plans to exact a fitting revenge and sets out to bankrupt the villain, with the help of two enigmatic loan sharks. Guy Ritchie's crime drama, with Jason Statham, Ray Liotta, Vincent Pastore and Terence Maynard. (2005)

TUESDAY

The Year of Living Dangerously, BBC1, 12.15am

An idealistic Australian journalist is sent to chronicle the upheaval in 1960s Indonesia. He develops a romance with a British diplomat and plans to make his career by covering first-hand the coming revolution, only to become personally involved in the conflict. Peter Weir's political thriller, starring Mel Gibson, Sigourney Weaver, Bembol Roco and an Oscar-winning Linda Hunt in a male role. (1982)

WEDNESDAY

The Guardian, BBC1, 11.15pm

A distinguished coastguard is recruited to prepare the next generation of aspiring search and rescue specialists. He meets his match with a talented and troubled rookie – a high-school swimming champion who is determined to inherit the instructor's crown. However, throughout the rigorous training the pair forge a strong friendship and settle the struggle for authority. Drama, with Kevin Costner, Ashton Kutcher and Sela Ward. (2006)



Revolver, Monday, Channel 5, 11pm

THURSDAY

Murder 101: College Can Be Murder, Channel 5, 3.15pm

A criminology professor is suspicious when a colleague appears to have died from a heart attack, and teams up with a private detective to uncover the truth – and they discover the dead man had a number of enemies and harboured many secrets. The second in the series of murder mysteries, starring Dick and Barry Van Dyke alongside Kimberly Quinn and Jonathan Banks. (2007)

FRIDAY

Scream, BBC1, 11.50pm

The students of a high school are stalked by a masked knife-wielding maniac with a love of scary movies and a penchant for playing mind games with his prey. One of the girls on his hit list begins to suspect there is a connection between the killer and her mother's murder a year previously. Wes Craven's horror, which satirises the genre's clichés, starring Neve Campbell, David Arquette and Courtney Cox. (1996)

Pick of the Week

Iris desperately tries to keep things on track

Which novel has been filmed twice, once by a legendary director in 1938, and once by a legendary studio in 1979?

If all those film buffs out there are saying The Lady Vanishes, they'd be wrong – the original story was entitled The Wheel Spins. It was written by Ethel Lina White and first published in 1936.

It's almost 70 years since Ms White passed away, and in the decades since, Ms White and her works have largely been forgotten, despite the fact that in her day, she was once one of the most revered crime writers around.

Out of the many books she penned, The Wheel Spins has had the most mileage thanks to its movie adaptations.

The plot focuses on Iris, a carefree girl whose world comes crashing down around her when the middle-aged Miss Froy, with whom she has been spending time while travelling through 1930s Eastern Europe by train, suddenly disappears – and her fellow passengers deny she ever existed.

Only one person believes her, dashing English traveller Max. They work together to find Miss Froy, uncovering a dastardly plan in the process...

Kate Harwood, controller, series and serials, BBC Drama, seems particularly thrilled with the way the project has panned out: "Fiona Seres's adaptation of The Wheel Spins deftly weaves together the intriguing stories of a psychologically complex group of characters – with the mysterious disappearance of Miss Froy on a packed train – played out against the tense backdrop of the Balkans in the 1930s."

It was Alfred Hitchcock who first spotted the book's cinematic potential. He turned it into what is now regarded as a classic; it also helped turn its leading cast members, Margaret Lockwood and Michael Redgrave (in his screen debut) into major stars.

But for Hitch, it had an even bigger impact – the fact the movie became the most successful British venture up to that point gave him a calling card to Hollywood; two years later, after negotiating a lucrative Stateside deal,

he released his first Tinseltown project, Rebecca, and never looked back.

Sadly, the 1979 remake from a then failing Hammer Films didn't do quite so well. In fact, it's fair to say it was a massive flop; even the presence of US actors Elliot Gould and Cybill Shepherd couldn't save it. Afterwards, Hammer stopped making movies for almost 30 years.

So, will the BBC's new take on the story follow in the footsteps of Hitchcock, or its disastrous remake? Hopefully the former rather than the latter – the pedigree is certainly impressive.

Filming took place in Budapest last year, and the feature-length thriller had originally been expected to appear on our screens at Christmas. However, the Beeb has tantalised us by making us wait a wee bit longer.

Rising stars Tuppence Middleton and Tom Hughes play Iris and Max, while Keeley Hawes, Gemma Jones, Julian Rhind-Tutt and Selina Cadell also star. Fans of Borgen should watch out for Benedikte Hansen, who also appears.



Tuppence Middleton stars in The Lady Vanishes, Sunday, BBC1, 8.30pm

Best of the Rest

MONDAY

James Nesbitt's Ireland, Channel 4, 8pm

His medical drama Monroe may be no more, but with The Hobbit recently racking up \$1 billion worth of business, at least that's softened the blow for James Nesbitt. Playing Tolkien's dwarf Bofur in New Zealand may have seen the acclaimed star out of his comfort zone, but now he's literally back on more familiar turf for this new series. James takes cameras around famous landmarks and examines the history and culture of the Emerald Isle. First stop is Dingle, a town on the south-west coast. He meets brothers Shaun and Kieran Murphy who moved from the Big Apple a dozen years ago with their families to set up an ice-cream business. Blarney Castle and Co Cork are also on the to do list.

Rich and on Benefits: Channel 4 Dispatches, Channel 4, 8pm

Chancellor George Osborne has said the Government needs to save £10 billion, and housing benefits, child tax credits, maternity pay and other benefits are all set to be capped. But while these measures will hit an estimated seven million working families, there's one group who seem to be exempt from the cost-cutting – pensioners. But is this a fair move, or is there a danger that we may be taking money from the poor to give it to people who don't actually need it? That's what Michael Buerk is on a mission to find out as he examines how well off some of Britain's pensioners really are, surveying OAPs across Britain to find out how they spend their welfare payments.

The Challenger, BBC2, 9pm

On January 28, 1986, the space shuttle Challenger exploded 73 seconds after take-off, killing everyone on board. Unsurprisingly a Presidential Commission was set up to explore what went wrong, but with the shuttle being one of the world's most complex machines, and with so many vested interests wrapped up in the investigation, finding the truth was a near-impossible challenge. However, if one man could get to the bottom of things it was scientist Richard Feynman, who had won a Nobel Prize for his breakthroughs in quantum physics. In this beautifully crafted drama examining his search for the truth, William Hurt delivers a top-drawer performance as Feynman.

TUESDAY

The Syndicate, BBC1, 9pm

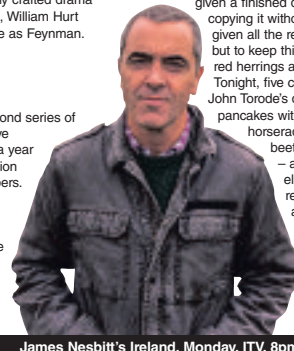
After last year's hit debut, the second series of Kay Mellor's drama focuses on five hospital workers whose £14,000 a year might be transformed into £14million each thanks to lucky lottery numbers. The problem is, absent-minded nurse Becky (Natalie Gavin) has lost the winning ticket, so mum Mandy (Siobhan Finnegan), Nurse Tom Bedford (Lini Mistry), Porter Alan Walters (Mark Addy) and Auxiliary Rose Wilson (Alison Steadman) could see their dreams slipping through their fingers unless the ticket can be

found. With £72million at stake, little wonder tempers are running high for the staff at St Anthony's Hospital. However, there are more headaches when it looks like there's another member of the syndicate.

WEDNESDAY

MasterChef, BBC1, 8pm

Regular viewers to the series will have noticed a new type of challenge introduced this time around. This ninth run of the culinary contest has included the difficult 'palate test', in which contestants are given a finished dish and tasked with copying it without a recipe. They're given all the required ingredients, but to keep things interesting a few red herrings are thrown in as well. Tonight, five contenders are given John Torode's dish of potato pancakes with smoked trout, horseradish cream and beetroot salad to emulate – after which, two are eliminated. The remaining three work a busy lunchtime service at London's Cadogan Hotel before cooking for John and Gregg Wallace, hoping to win a place in the quarter-finals.



James Nesbitt's Ireland, Monday, ITV, 8pm

THURSDAY

Home Delivery, ITV, 9pm

When it comes to giving birth, every woman is different, but as this documentary explains, many are going against convention and opting for a home delivery. Nobody knows this more than independent midwife Virginia, who cameras follow as she goes about her business, taking care of three couples and playing a part in bringing new life into the world. One of the couples, Julie and Anthony, are preparing for the arrival of their baby boy. Julie has had a difficult pregnancy with trapped nerves and pelvic pain but is planning a home delivery in an inflatable birthing pool, and is keen to have her other son present; something which wouldn't be allowed in hospital.

FRIDAY

Live International Football, ITV, 7.30pm

England's quest to qualify for the 2014 World Cup continues as they travel to face San Marino at the Stadio Olimpico in Serravalle, for their fifth match of the campaign. Having won two and drawn two thus far, anything less than a victory in this contest will be seen as a disaster for Roy Hodgson's men, especially given that San Marino have failed to register a point or score a goal from their first four fixtures. The sides have already met on one occasion with the reverse clash having taken place at Wembley Stadium last October, which saw the hosts eventually ease to a 5-0 victory after an initial frustrating opening to the contest.

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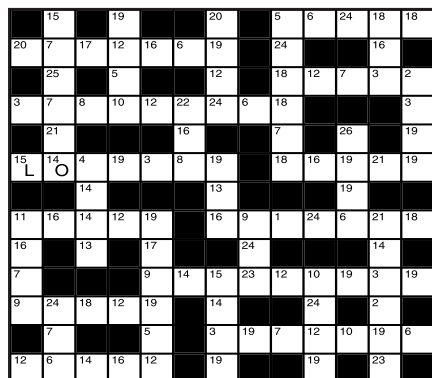
What's On!

Brain Gym

No.212

Codeword

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet and every letter of the alphabet is used. Use the given letter(s) to the right of the main grid to start you off.



LAST WEEK'S SOLUTION:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
W	E	F	B	T	Z	K	Y	H	M	A	Q	N		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
C	I	L	P	O	V	U	X	R	D	S	J	G		

Double Crossword

Choose either quick or cryptic clues - both fit the same grid.

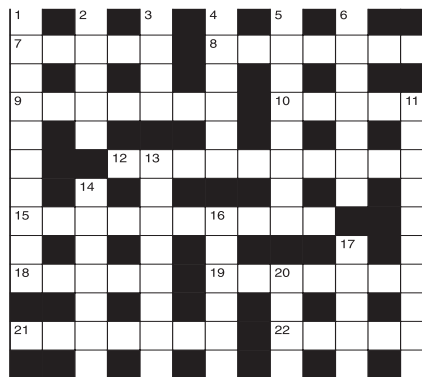
Cryptic Clues:

Across

7. See 17 Down
8. Throw out a proposed scheme (7)
9. Obstruction to trade - but amber changes to the green light! (7)
10. This finishes off the letter with a flourish (5)
12. Mere agents could make them (10)
15. They jog one's memory about a number of books left unsold (10)
18. Classifies varieties (5)
19. An imposing place to live, but you'll find the fellow is no different (7)
21. I'll be in offstage area ready to act (7)
22. Rocky shelf where the toboggan loses its top (5)

Down

1. Pursuing those with guardians at a later date (10)
2. But when they are planted they don't make the soil light! (5)
3. A bit of unrest, I realise, is created by the agitator (4)
4. Object to a little work and set a problem (6)
5. He takes down what has been produced (8)
6. Sea-food - that's what the married woman puts on (7)
11. having obtained it from him! (10)
13. Contradicted - manages to get help (8)
14. Green may be seen in the ring (7)
16. Result of vandalism - mother gets a long stretch of time (6)
17 & 7 Ac. Discovers a geological feature, but shows dissatisfaction (5,5)
20. Nothing must take precedence over eastern river (4)
22. Fear (5)



Quick Clues:

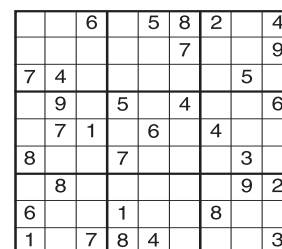
Across

7. Bend (5)
8. Truck (7)
9. Gratify (7)
10. Young eel (5)
12. Nobleman (10)
15. Trifle (10)
18. Tag (5)
19. The devil (7)
21. Restraint (7)
22. Fear (5)

Down

1. Western (10)
2. Rank (5)
3. In good health (4)
4. Accent (6)
5. Leading (8)
6. Bondage (7)
11. Degenerating (10)
13. Banter (8)
14. Disperse (7)
16. Small (6)
17. Guide (5)
20. Fashion (4)

Sudoku



Fill in the grid below so that every column, every row and each of the 3x3 boxes contains all the digits from 1 to 9.

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS >

6	7	8	1	4	3	9	2	5
1	3	2	9	6	5	4	8	7
9	4	5	7	8	2	1	6	3
2	1	7	4	5	6	3	9	8
4	9	6	8	3	1	7	5	2
3	8	1	6	2	4	5	7	9
5	2	4	3	9	7	8	1	6
7	6	9	5	1	8	2	3	4

LAST WEEK'S CRYPTOGRAM SOLUTION:

The letter represented by the question mark is A. Waterloo, Vauxhall, Victoria, all stations on the London Underground.
LAST WEEK'S CROSSWORD SOLUTIONS:
CRYPTIC - Across: 1 At the last; 8 Age; 9 Endorsement; 11 Remarks; 12 Allot; 13 Minute; 15 Closed; 17 Motor; 18 Airways; 20 Adventures; 22 Rot; 23 Street-car. Down: 2 Ten; 3 Error; 4 Averse; 5 Toe-nail; 6 Rattlesnake; 7 Neap-tides; 10 Demonstrate; 11 Remembers; 14 Thrives; 16 Banner; 19 Route; 21 Spa. QUICK - Across: 1 Newspaper; 8 Own; 9 Implication; 11 Ferment; 12 Error; 13 Accord; 15 Stable; 17 Comet; 18 Visitor; 20 Alter course; 22 Sin; 23 Stevedore. Down: 2 Elm; 3 Prize; 4 Plants; 5 Raiment; 6 Contributor; 7 Underwear; 10 Part company; 11 Franchise; 14 Rotates; 16 Averse; 19 Slope; 21 Sir.



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- Detached Cottage with character
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- 2 bedrooms (EPC - E)

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TETTENHALL
7 LIMES ROAD

- Traditional 2 bed mid terrace
- Breakfast kitchen with appliances
- Rear garden with patio area (EPC - D)

£745 PCM

CLAVERLEY
10 DANESBROOK

- 3 bedroom semi detached house
- Separate lounge and dining room
- Recently decorated (EPC - E)

£680 PCM

PEDMORE
11 PEDMORE MEWS

- First floor apartment
- 2 bedrooms master with ensuite
- Secure parking (EPC - C)

£650 PCM

HAGLEY
5 NEWLANDS CLOSE

- Second floor 2 bed apartment
- Spacious lounge with kitchen recess
- Good location for commuting (EPC - D)

£595 PCM

OLDSWINFORD
30 HEATH LANE

- Traditional mid Terrace
- Close to Stourbridge Junction
- 2 bedrooms (EPC - E)

£475 PCM

AMBLECOTE
95 BRETTLE LANE

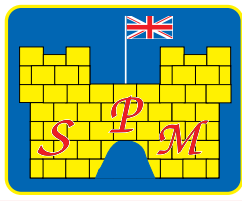
- Modern ground floor flat
- 1 double bedroom
- Allocated parking (EPC - D)

£425 PCM

WOLLASTON
50A BRIDGENORTH ROAD

- First floor flat
- 2 good size bedrooms
- Village location (EPC - E)

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PENSNETT HIGH STREET FOR SALE £149,995 Detached property in a set back position with ample car parking for 3-4 cars. Accommodation of the property comprises of: Entrance Porch & Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Conservatory, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Separate Shower Cubicle. Benefits include: Double Glazing, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, and NO UPWARD CHAIN.	BRIERLEY HILL HAWBUSH GARDENS FOR SALE £64,500 Ground Floor Flat Offered with no upward chain. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance into Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom and a Bathroom. Benefits of the property include: Communal Grounds, Off Road, Parking, and Refitted Kitchen. Make an appointment to view by calling 01384 277701.	KINGSWINFORD NEW QUEEN STREET £450 pcm Large First Floor Flat. Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, One Double Bedroom, Gas Central Heating, Bathroom with Walk in Cupboard, Double Glazing. FULLY FURNISHED, Maintained Gardens. No DSS.	PENSNETT NEW BRYCE ROAD £525 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Unfurnished, Gas Central Heating, Off Road Parking, Front & Rear Gardens.
TIVIDALE NEW OAKTHORPE GARDENS £420 pcm Purpose built flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking.	NETHERTON NEW PARK ROAD £360 pcm First floor flat, Spacious Lounge, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking, Available End March.	TIPTON NEW HOPKINS STREET £525 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	GORNAL NEW CENTRAL DRIVE £550 pcm Terrace Property, Entrance Hall, Lounge/Diner, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Gardens, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.
KINGSWINFORD NEW SUMMER STREET £595 pcm Cottage, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Bathroom, Two Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Rear Garden, Mostly Double Glazed.	SWINDON HIGH STREET £460 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Parking at Rear ECP - C.	BRIERLEY HILL THE PROMENADE £495 pcm Terraced Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished EPC-D.	PENSNETT THE POPLARS, 70 HIGH STREET £425 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Loft Space, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Garage, Unfurnished.
WOLLESCOTE MURCROFT ROAD £395 pcm First Floor Flat, Entrance, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden.	WOODSETTON FLAVELL STREET £525 pcm Terrace Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Rear Garden, Off Road Parking EPC - D.	UPPER GORNAL VICARAGE ROAD £550 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom with Shower, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Front & Rear Garden, Unfurnished EPC - D.	KINGSWINFORD BARNETT LANE £450 pcm Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, No DSS, No Pets.
LYE TALBOT STREET £410 pcm Modern Grpund Flat, Entrance Hall, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Double Glazing, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.	BRIERLEY HILL DADFORD VIEW £460 pcm Cluster Style Property, Lounge, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Gas Central Heating, Allocated Parking, Front & Side Garden, Available Early March.	PEDMORE LANSLOWNE CRT, HAGLEY ROAD £550 pcm Ground Floor Apartment, Lounge, Kitchen, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Unfurnished, Communal Gardens, Off Road Parking.	DUDLEY STOURBRIDGE ROAD £525 pcm Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, Three Double Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Off Road Parking.
KINGSWINFORD COTTAGE STREET £595 pcm Semi Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Rear Garden.	KINGSWINFORD RANGEWAYS ROAD £725 pcm Link Detached Property, Lounge, Dining Room, Kitchen, WC, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished.	TIPTON TIPPS STONE CLOSE £410 pcm First Floor Flat, Lounge, Kitchen, One Bedroom, Bathroom, Electric Heating, Off Road Parking, Unfurnished.	SEDGLEY DINGLE VIEW £675 pcm Detached Property, Lounge, Kitchen/Diner, Three Bedrooms, Bathroom, Gas Central Heating, Double Glazing, Unfurnished, Front/Side/Rear Gdns, Off Road Parking.

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Home of Property

Desirable location for detached home



The detached property which is in a cul-de-sac has three reception rooms, three bedrooms and a study

A TRADITIONAL detached family home in a desirable location in Kingswinford is for sale with a price tag of £324,950.

The house in Broadfield Close is in a cul-de-sac setting with deceptively large layout of substantially extended accommodation which includes three reception rooms, three first floor bedrooms and first floor study.

Broadfield Close is a sought-after area of distinctive detached houses and bungalows which is approached from Stream Road, and the property is conveniently located for schooling and the centre of Kingswinford with its wide selection of shops, restaurants and other amenities.

On the ground floor is a refitted guest cloakroom with white suite of WC and wash hand basin, while the lounge – 19ft by 12ft 3in – has a feature fireplace with gas log effect fire and doors to a dining room measuring 15ft by 12ft 9in and with a door to a shower cubicle.

There is also a sitting room/breakfast room, the sitting room measuring 11ft 3in by 9ft 6in and with a feature brick fireplace with living flame gas fire, while the breakfast room is 9ft 1in by 6ft 5in with French doors to the rear garden.

The refitted kitchen, 13ft 5in by 8ft 10in, has a range of units with black granite work tops, stainless steel one and a half bowl sink with mixer tap, integrated induction electric hob, stainless steel cooker hood, integrated

double oven, fridge, freezer, microwave and dishwasher.

On the first floor are three bedrooms, study and a refitted bathroom with classic white suite of panelled bath with shower and screen, wash basin with vanity unit and WC.

Outside the house is set back behind a full width block paved driveway providing off road parking for several vehicles, with gated side access to a small store – originally part of the garage which has been sectioned off to create a laundry room with plumbing for automatic washing machine.

The rear garden has a full width paved patio area, shaped level lawns and raised patio area with potting shed and timber shed.

Call Taylors on 01384 401777.



The back garden has a full width patio area, an attractively shaped lawn, a potting shed and a timber shed

Theatrical approach to decor

"PEOPLE are prepared to take a theatrical approach to rooms these days and they want drama and impact and a 'wow' factor" says Debbie McKeegan who with her husband founded the hugely successful Digetex, which specialises in digitally printed papers and fabrics.

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"Papers featuring period-style plaster work designs have undoubtedly been hugely boosted in popularity by TV's Downton Abbey, while Scandinavian dramas help increase the demand for the pared-back effect, white-washed-boards or driftwood designs.

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Georgian brick panel Digetexhome.com

TOWN & COUNTRY

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KINGSWINFORD ROAD

An extremely well presented three bedroom semi detached property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, utility, downstairs WC, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E

DSS:NO CHILDREN:YES PETS:MAY SMOKERS:NO
£595PCM



BROOK STREET LYE

A three bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Lounge, kitchen, three bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having gas central heating, double glazing, garage, driveway affording off road parking and enclosed rear garden consisting of lawn and patio area. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO

£550PCM



BIRMINGHAM NEW ROAD COSELEY

A very well presented two bedroom second floor Apartment with accommodation comprising of: Communal entrance with video entry phone system & communal staircase to 2nd floor, private entrance hall with built in airing cupboard, open plan lounge/kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric storage heating, double glazing and secure gated complex with parking space. FURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: YES PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£550PCM



HAMMERSLEY CLOSE CRADLEY HEATH

An extremely well presented two bedroom starter home in a popular residential location. Accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, family bathroom and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing, enclosed rear garden and off road parking. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D

DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO
£525PCM



THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET UPPER GORNAL

An Extremely well presented two bedroom terrace property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of lounge, kitchen, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating and double glazing.

Unfurnished DSS:YES PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO
£525PCM



FOXDALE DRIVE BRIERLEY HILL

An extremely well presented one bedroom starter home situated in a popular residential location with accommodation to comprise of: Open plan kitchen/lounge, bedroom and bathroom. The property further benefits from having electric heating, double glazing, small open plan fore garden with patio area and allocated parking. UNFURNISHED

EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£395PCM

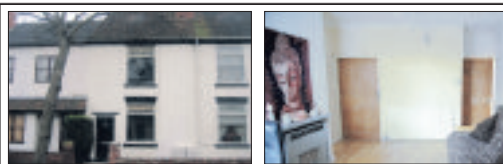


THE QUARTER CLARENCE STREET

An extremely well presented two bedroom property situated in a popular residential location. The accommodation comprises of entrance, lounge, fitted kitchen, bathroom, and two bedrooms. The property further benefits from gas central heating, double glazing and allocated parking.

UNFURNISHED DSS: May Consider Pets: No
Children: Yes
Smokers: No

£525PCM



WORCESTER STREET STOURBRIDGE

An extremely well presented two bedroom mid terrace property situated in a popular residential location close to Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation comprises of kitchen, diner, lounge, two bedrooms and bathroom. The property further benefits from gas central heating, partial double glazing, rear garden and off road parking to the rear. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = E DSS:NO PETS:NO CHILDREN: YES SMOKERS:NO

£525pcm



REDHOLME COURT REDHILL

An Unfurnished two bedroom first floor apartment located within walking distance of Stourbridge Town Centre. Accommodation to comprise of: Entrance door with security code, private entrance hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen with cooker, bathroom, two bedrooms and ample storage cupboards. The property further benefits from night storage heating, communal gardens and single garage.

UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = D DSS: NO CHILDREN: NO PETS: NO SMOKERS: NO
£475PCM



CANTERBURY CLOSE ROWLEY REGIS

A very well presented two bedroom apartment situated on the first floor. The accommodation comprises of entrance hall, lounge, kitchen and two bedrooms and bathroom with shower. The property also benefits from allocated parking space and communal grounds. UNFURNISHED EPC RATING = C

DSS:NO PETS:MAY CONSIDER CHILDREN:MAY CONSIDER SMOKERS:NO

£395PCM

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KIA SORENTO CRDI XS 4X4 53 Reg, 86k, metallic mid blue, EW, EM, AC, fish, CL, alarm, cruise control, PAS, diesel, SR, alloys, stereo, CD, leather, tax MoT to Sept 2013, tow bar, beautiful ride, excellent condition, must be seen. £5,250. 01743 850088.

MAZDA 6 TS2i, Diesel, 54 plate, 85,607 miles, 8 months MoT, full electric, d/c, ac, fish, £1,995 ono. 07796 771710.

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Motoring

Compiled by Motoring
Editor Sharon Walters

Italian job going for bigger picture

FIAT hopes its latest car will make the runaway success of its cheeky little 500 bigger still – literally.

Obviously a business that knows when it's got a (small) monster hit on its hands, the Italian car maker has decided to go large with a tribute model.

Called the 500L it shares nothing with its smaller sibling except an obvious, and wholly deliberate likeness around the front. And the crucial 500 name, of course.

But instead of the little 500's charmingly modest dimensions, the 500L arrives as a junior MPV, replacing the smaller car's knee-banging rear seats with room for strapping adults in the back, and a boot that explodes from boutique friendly to a supermarket shop natural.

By Ian Donaldson

If Fiat was worried buyers might see the Serbian-built 500L as little more than a five-door version of the car it pays homage to, a first glance will put them right. It actually looks quite big, sitting under a watery early spring sky.

Nearly as big, say, as a Ford Focus and bigger than an obvious new competitor, the Ford B-Max, complete with tall body and sliding rear doors.

The 500L comes in three grades; Popstar, Easy and Lounge, with prices from £14,990 to £18,890. There are four engine choices; petrol units with 875ccs and 1.4 litres and a couple of diesels, 1.3 and 1.6 litres.

Easy and Popstar models cost the same, with different trim treatments to tell them apart. The Easy (and dearer Lounge models) have fabric or suede dashboard finishes, which leaves both looking drab, especially when you add in the acres of black inside their surprisingly spacious cabins.

The Pop Star brings a touch of Latin liveliness to its interior with dash panels in the same paint colour as the outside of the car. Very chic it looks, too.

Every 500L has cruise control, air conditioning, five-inch touchscreen radio and (thank goodness) a spare wheel. The Popstar has alloy wheels, ditched on the same price Easy, which includes rear electric windows and rear parking sensors instead.

The top Lounge model comes as standard with a huge glass sunroof, auto climate control and auto wipers and lights.

As standard the Fiat 500L comes with six airbags (front, side and window), three-point safety belts on all five seats

and double pretensioners and load limiters at the front. The steering column is designed to collapse in a heavy frontal impact. This is to protect the driver and prevent the steering wheel being pushed upwards.

Fiat is now providing its small cars with a City Brake Control system designed to reduce the effects of low-speed collision in traffic. By sending out laser impulses and registering how quickly they're reflected, City Brake Control can detect remotely how far the car is from other obstacles.

Depending on variables such as weather conditions, road surface and tyre condition, a crash can either be avoided or the consequences minimised. It operates at speeds between three and 19mph so it won't cut in during parking manoeuvres or at speed when it could create a dangerous situation.

The Fiat 500L also has front headlights that feature daytime running lights and it has front foglights with a self-adaptive cornering function (standard on the 500L Lounge). These illuminate on the side the car is turning towards to light up the verges as well as giving other drivers added warning of the 500L's actual direction of travel.

Espresso

The long options list includes lumbar adjustment for the driver and a DAB and Bluetooth package, costing £100 each and which ought to be standard on the Lounge, at least. Coming later is a yet unpriced option of an on-board espresso coffee machine in the dashboard. No, I'm not making that last bit up.

The Fiat 500L will become the first standard production car in the world to offer a proper espresso coffee machine fully integrated into the dashboard. In collaboration with Lavazza, Fiat has devised a unique deck that allows the coffee maker to be fitted into the passenger compartment. It then uses Lavazza's A Modo Mio capsules to make authentic Italian espresso coffee. Owners who plump for



There are three grades – Popstar, Easy and Lounge

this option will also be able to choose a selection of accessories to complement it including spoon, capsule and sugar holders. Does the rest of the car feel like a dash of Italy? After a drive in the top Lounge diesel, the answer is 'not really'. The 500L is rather too big and serious to carry the genes of a smaller and more vivacious stablemate.

Instead, you get a car that majors on space and sensibility. The diesel keeps its growly nature well under control and provides plenty of performance in the higher gears that are a good diesel's happy hunting ground. The test car's morning's work returned 48mpg on the hard to read trip computer; not a bad result, if a long way below the official figure.

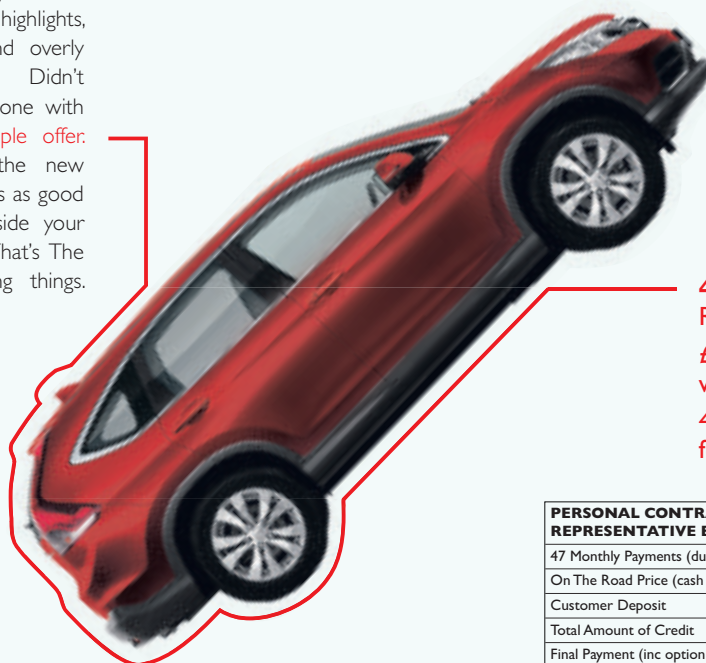
It's not a car for the back road grand prix, preferring a more relaxed life where its generally comfy ride will be appreciated as everyone on board marvels at just how big the little 500 has become.



Prices for 500L range from £14,990 to £18,890

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Dudley rider Max Clegg

School classes prevent practice

DUDLEY HEATHENS have given up on a pre-season team practice – because of school classes.

They wanted a get-together before the season-opener at Coventry in the Travel Plus Trophy on Friday, March 22.

Squad commitments – including school for 15-year-olds Max Clegg and Nathan Greaves – ruled it out.

The team are invited to Wolverhampton's press and practice session on Tuesday, March 26, from 6.30pm.

Boss Will Pottinger said: "We need to get some laps in around Monmore Green before our first home meeting on April 9 against Coventry."

"We tried to get the lads together, but it's been impossible to get them together on the same day because of work, school and transport issues."

Amazing

"It's amazing to think we have riders who are at school and yet riding speedway for our club! We're looking forward to what promises to be an exciting season."

Clegg is happy to be a part. "I've had good first impressions of the club. The management seem really good and all the supporters are good as well," he said.

"I don't really think pressure will affect me that much, even though I'm joining a club with a lot of fans. I used to let pressure get to me a lot, but I think more fans spurs me on a bit now and makes me ride better if anything."

"We could have a good chance of the league title if we all get settled in quickly and have some good meetings. Nathan is a newcomer, so you can never be sure how he will do, but he's a good rider and I think he'll do well."

Rohan's goals help secure league points

Bristol Inner City U12 1 Stourbridge U12A 4

TWO goals from Rohan Brown helped Stourbridge to three Midland Junior Premier League points.

Max Haddon and Jordan Edwards got the other goals.

U13A Stourbridge U13A 2 Cotton Green U13 2

Two goals in the last 10 minutes deprived Stourbridge of victory.

Sides were well-matched, but Stourbridge created the better chances and went ahead midway through the first half as James Timmins put a firm header into the net from a set-piece delivery.

Stourbridge Juniors

Stourbridge kept making chances in the second half and scored again as a slick passing move saw Callum McKenna breaking clear for a clever finish.

Coton Green pulled one back from the penalty spot with 10 minutes to go and equalised with a cool finish on the counter-attack.

Stourbridge U13B 3 Brandhall Colts U13 0

Stourbridge's Jack Davies struck a powerful shot home after just five minutes and they pressed for another goal in the second half

and found it as Sam Green's fine pass was smacked in on the volley by Josh Ball.

Minutes later, Conner Fawkes converted a cross by Travis Woods.

Stourbridge U15A 2 Beaumont Town U15 2

Jordan Siviter's equaliser helped Stourbridge take a deserved draw from second-placed Beaumont.

The home team struggled to get out of their half during part of the first period.

But they struck on the break as

Sam Banner eased into the box and sent in a low cross slotted home by Connor Lawrence.

Beaumont levelled with a penalty before the interval and then took the lead.

Committed defending kept the deficit to one goal – and Stourbridge equalised when Siviter nodded in the rebound after the Beaumont keeper parried Tom Wickstead's header into the air.

Stour – aided by the woodwork – then battled successfully to retain their point.

Walsall Phoenix U16 1 Stourbridge U16A 0

Stourbridge dominated for long

periods, but fell to a close-range header from a well-delivered corner on the half-hour.

From then on, Stour were on the front foot but could not make anything happen.

Stourbridge U16B 7 Dudley Town U16 3
This goal-packed win guaranteed the title for Stourbridge.

There were celebrations by parents and players afterwards.

Greg Corbett, Luke Dimmock and man of the match Harry Greatwich all scored twice with Liam Kendrick getting the other goal.

Results: Stourbridge U12B 3 Brewood U12 3, Burton Colts U14 1 Stourbridge U14A 1.

Morris on the way with ABA area win

CRAIG MORRIS booked his place in the first regional stages of the senior ABA competition after he was crowned Midlands champion with an area final victory, *writes Craig Birch*.

Morris, from Lions ABC in Dudley, saw off home-town fighter Craig Sheldon, from Willenhall ABC, at the Coventry district's Social Club.

The 71kg Black Country combatant started slowly to take the measure of Sheldon, but got better and stronger as the fight – his first over three, three-minute rounds – wore on.

By the final round, Morris was steaming forward and ramming home straight shots to set up flush right hooks from the southpaw stance that bamboozled Sheldon's defences.

The judges were in no doubt and went with Morris unanimously on points, propelling him into this weekend's next round.

But there was disappointment for Dudley's Josh Aston, from Priory Park ABC, as he came second-best to 2011 ABA national champion Alimain Hussain.

Aston – cousin of pro Ryan – struggled to fend off straight shots from the talented Hussain.

Hussain, from Aston ABC, connected almost at will in a unanimous points victory.

Trio tackle challenge in France

THREE Stourbridge Running Club members popped across the Channel for the Paris half-marathon.

Andrea Evans finished in one hour, 50 minutes while Jo Smith clocked 1:52 and Kat Adams 2:07 in a field of more than 30,000.

Closer to home, the club had a good turnout in Stratford 10k.

Out of 184 runners, David Rose was the first Stourbridge runner over the line with a time of 42:06 to finish 23rd.

Sebastien Nicolas was 29th in 43:42; Rob Moore 52nd in 47:14 and Rob Woodward 60th in a time of 47:50.

New runners are welcome at the club.

See www.srclub.co.uk for more details.

Stourbridge Saxons 41 Leicester Lions 3 AN OUTSTANDING defensive display and a combination of bludgeon and rapier in attack produced one of the Saxons' best all-round performances of the season.

They ran in six tries against Leicester Lions in their National Two North clash and kept their own line intact.

The opening score was created by winger Sam Baker, a product of the club's mini and junior section.

He stripped the ball from an isolated opponent and started a counter-attack finished off by Jamie Hearn on the opposite wing.

Leicester hit back with a penalty after a Saxons defender went off his feet arriving at a tackle.

Scrum-half and man of the match Pete White darted through a gap in the visitors' defence to score straight from the restart kick.

Stretched

Hearn converted and then stretched the lead with a successful penalty after an opponent came in at the side of a tackle.

The Saxons also scored through their trademark driving maul.

They moved off following an attacking lineout after Leicester strayed offside, with hooker Stewart Pearl the man to ground the ball.

The first half ended with centre Will Hurrell in the sinbin, though, after a clumsy challenge on an opponent in the air.

Before Hurrell's return, the 14-man Saxons struck

Stourbridge Saxons

again on the counter when Hearn collected White's chip over the defence.

Hurrell made up for his absence by receiving a scoring pass from replacement Caolan Ryan who had also found a gap in the defences after Leicester spilled the ball in attack.

The final try was secured from another lineout catch and drive, flanker James Rodley this time the man to score.

Coach Mike Umaga said: "After struggling with some interpretations last week, we talked about composure and the need to work with the match officials."

"We knew Leicester Lions would come at us hard and try it on – but, credit to the referee, he handled it well."

"Our pack's efforts wore them down and we were able to capitalise on that in the second half."

"The boys can be really proud of their defensive work, and I thought Pete White in particular had a splendid all-round game."



Jamie Hearn runs in the first try for Stourbridge Saxons during their demolition job against Leicester Lions



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Six-hitters
Saxons rout Lions
with try bonanza
Page 39



Learning curve
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Page 39



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United's equaliser attempts are foiled

**Causeway United 1
Ellesmere Rangers 2**
CAUSEWAY found themselves two goals down inside 10 minutes and could never quite complete a comeback as Ellesmere claimed only their third Midland Alliance win of the season.

After three minutes, the visitors led as Gavin Winsper was adjudged to have pushed Kevin Renshaw in the area and Steve O'Reilly scored from the resulting penalty.

Craig Gregg put a shot just over for Causeway shortly after, but a neat move from the visitors resulted in Renshaw putting in a low cross which was neatly side-footed home by Jamie Haynes to make it 2-0.

Causeway cut the deficit on 37 minutes when Gregg put in a corner and Winsper scored from the resulting goalmouth scramble.

On 56 minutes, Stuart Howe hit the bar for Causeway with a looping shot as they looked for an equaliser and Darren Whitley then saw a header stopped on the line.

Entries call for mud run

MORE THAN six miles of mud, sweat and tears is the Stourbridge challenge awaiting the region's most spirited runners.

The XMud West Midlands event is being held at Red Hall Farm on May 25-26.

Participants will battle natural and man-made obstacles – including walls, water obstacles, ice baths, tunnels, logs and sandbags – around a course of six-to-eight miles.

The mud run is suitable for all levels of ability.

Teams are encouraged – group entries will receive a discount, as will Student Union cardholders and members of the armed services and emergency services.

Parking will be available and spectators are welcome.

Every competitor will receive a hard-earned beer at the finish line.

For details call Gavin Jones on 07429 524 543.

Glassboys draw a blank after signing striker

St Neots Town 0 Stourbridge 0

THE Glassboys' first visit to Rowley Park had added spice as news broke that they had just agreed a deal to sign home side top scorer Ben Mackey for a nominal fee.

With Mackey missing for the hosts and Stourbridge minus leading scorer Luke Benbow through suspension, was it surprising that this Evo-Stik Southern Premier contest ended goalless?

The opening 20 minutes were lively with Gary Hackett's men having the first chance after five minutes as a long kick downfield by keeper Dean Coleman led to hesitation in the middle of the home defence.

Stourbridge FC

James Spray, his back to goal, controlled and turned to hit a shot that beat the out of position keeper Jack Giddens. Defender Gavin Hoyte did well to stretch and clear.

Six minutes later Lewis Hilliard dribbled towards Stourbridge's box to hit a low shot past Coleman's left-hand post.

In the 24th minute a half-clearance from Tom Wood let Drew Canavan to hit a drive from 25 yards that Giddens got safely behind, but the game remained goalless.

Both sides had a chance to break the deadlock early in the second period. Two minutes

in Wood provided a good chance for Dubi Oghonna, but his placed shot from the edge of the box saw Coleman grab at full stretch.

Play switched to the other end, where Spray wriggled free but saw a close-range shot blocked by Giddens.

The home side had more possession, but made little inroads against Stourbridge, although the last 10 minutes saw chances.

In the 82nd minute a long diagonal pass from Ryan Auger picked out Hilliard on the left edge of the box and he took the ball down well, but his shot was gathered by Coleman.

Glassboys sub Lee Osborne went into attack and caused the hosts problems with

running off the ball. In the 84th minute Paul McCone fed Jordan Fitzpatrick to roll the ball into the path of Osborne whose shot on the run was deflected into Giddens' hands.

Two minutes later Leon Broadhurst played a fine pass into Osborne but, as he looked to go past Giddens, he miscontrolled and the ball squirmed out of play.

Just before the end Sean Evans was half-stopped in the left channel area, however Broadhurst fastened on to the ball and struck a low angled shot from 20 yards that flew past the far post.

A point was probably a fair outcome as neither side was able to get on top.

Winners' pressure pays off

**Kewford Eagles U11 East 1
Stourbridge U11 2**

STOURBRIDGE had to come from behind to reach the League Cup final.

Kewford had taken an early, deserved lead with an opportunistic goal from striker Luke Sidaway.

Stourbridge then came back into the game and got the equaliser when Jordan Edwards was put clean through by Donovan Westwood.

Edwards raced towards goal and slotted the ball home past the advancing Kewford keeper.

The second half saw Stourbridge pile on the pressure and grab the vital goal through Mitchell Harrison.

James Thompson set him free. Harrison rounded the advancing keeper, still had plenty to do but slotted the ball home from a tight angle into the bottom corner.

Stourbridge also hit the post and found the Kewford keeper in excellent form.

Defensively, they kept Kewford at arms' length with keeper Tyler Beach having no save to make in the second period.

Stourbridge now march on to the final at The Dell stadium on April 21 (10am).

More Juniors – Page 39

Trophy relish for the gentlemen

MORE THAN 70 members took part in a new trophy competition at Enville Golf Club. The first Taberner Trophy was fought out in a match between the 'gentlemen' and the 'seniors'.

A tight affair under the four ball, better ball format saw the gents win 11-9.

Richard Taberner presented the trophy which bears his name to club captain Mark Hitchcroft.

The Chronicle, a Midland News Association Ltd publication, printed by the company at Kettleby, Telford, Thursday, March 14, 2013.

CROWD THEM OUT CALL FOR CUP FINAL

LIONS skipper Stuart Doolittle has called for the crowd to be their 16th man as they bid to march on towards Twickenham.

Stourbridge head into their second successive RFU Midlands Vase Cup final on Saturday, defending their crown against Old Leamingtonians.

The Lions move into the Stourton Park clash on the back of six wins, and victory at the weekend would leave them just one game from a Twickenham national final.

Doolittle said: "We know how hard it's going to be. They are top of Midlands Three South (West) and looking good to win it."

"They have been to our place before and sent coaches to watch us at the weekend so they will know what to expect from us."

Lions met Old Lems in last year's quarter-final stage and came through a tough encounter 9-6.

"It was a very close battle, with the nailbitingly close victory secured via a last-minute penalty," said Doolittle. "Our defence and discipline were key factors on the day."

Difference

Home advantage is with the Lions, and Doolittle said: "It makes a difference, having the familiarity of being in your own changing room and on our own pitch."

"However, the biggest help will be the crowd. They were brilliant last year and kept us playing for the full 80 minutes."

"We are hoping that we can get that again and really appreciate the support."

"We have been playing some good rugby this year and the effort put in by the boys on the training pitch is coming through."

"We are undoubtedly a better team than we were last time we met, so it should

Stourbridge Lions

be another gripping contest. We will come out of the blocks firing on Saturday and give it everything in order to retain the trophy and secure another potential chance of a trip to Twickenham for the national final."

Kick-off is 2pm and admission £4.

Promotion-chasing Lions had a 28-5 home win over Handsworth – also pushing for elevation to Midlands Division Two.

The Lions ruled the first 20 minutes, scoring three fine tries. Two were line-out drives which saw skipper Doolittle cross, while winger Danny Cox also got over.

An early penalty by Tom Mitchell came before the tries. He added another along with a conversion.

Handsworth's powerful forwards and driving play got them back into the game but Lions reached the interval 23-0 ahead.

The second half saw constant pressure from the Handsworth forwards but sound defence and an occasional knock-on left the home line intact until 18 minutes from the end as the visitors crossed on the left.

Lions' No.8 James Meakin drove off a scrum, feeding scrum-half Andrew Slater to squeeze over.

Richard grabs all four for table-topping Flyers



The four-midable Richard Anslow, right, puts Lye Town on their way by finding the bottom corner for the first goal

RICHARD ANSLOW grabbed all four goals as table-topping Lye Town took another step towards the West Midlands Premier title.

It might have been even better for Lye, Robin Sheffield hitting the home side's bar from distance while the visitors were convinced that Chris Russell's blocked header had crossed the line.

Shifnal 0 Lye Town 4

Anslow made the breakthrough 10 minutes before the interval, turning the ball through a melee of bodies after efforts by Nathan Jukes and Sheffield had been blocked.

He added the second just before the break, collecting Russell's flick and waltzing round the goalkeeper to finish

despite the active presence of a defender.

Lye killed off the game early in the second half when Anslow completed his hat-trick.

Substitute Damian Whitcombe released Kalum Evitts on the left and his far-post cross was met by Anslow for 3-0. Steve Weaver's perceptive pass teed up Anslow for the fourth.

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